

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

DRAFT Minutes for the JTPG Meeting

Held on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, 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:

Victoria Alfaro, Chair.....Town of Acushnet
Byron Holmes.....Town of Berkley
John Woods..... Town of Carver
Tim Barber.....Town of Dartmouth
Joshua Crabb.....Town of Fairhaven
Dan Aguiar.....City of Fall River
Franklin Moniz..... Town of Lakeville
Josh Reinke..... Town of Mansfield
Norman Hills.....Town of Marion
Janice Robbins.....Town of Mattapoissett
Adam Hart.....City of New Bedford
Michael Borg.....Town of North Attleborough
TJ Torres.....Town of Plainville
Norm Sturtevant.....Town of Raynham
Amy Messier.....Town of Somerset
Katherine Nunes.....City of Taunton
Gloria Saddler.....At-Large, City of Fall River
Alan Slavin.....At-Large, City of New Bedford

The following members/alternates were NOT in attendance:

City of Attleboro
Town of Dighton
Town of Freetown
Town of Middleborough
Town of Norton
Town of Rehoboth
Town of Rochester
Town of Seekonk
Town of Swansea

At-Large, Taunton
At-Large, Attleboro

Also in Attendance:

Barbara Lachance.....Massachusetts Department of Transportation District 5
Christina Mendoza.....SRTA
Dylan Skinner.....TEC Inc.
Mary Ellen DeFrias.....GATRA
Dawn Nims.....MassDOT
Gail Rodrigues.....South Coast Bikeway Alliance
Vincent Furtado.....Fairhaven
Sheila Sherman.....
Shaun Handy..... Massachusetts Department of Transportation District 5
Kayla Sousa.....MassDOT
Sasha Wood.....MassDOT
Will Gardner.....SouthCoast Places for People
Lisa Estrela-Pedro.....SRPEDD
Jackie Jones.....SRPEDD
Andrea Duarte-Campos.....SRPEDD
Maya Couto.....SRPEDD
Jon Gray.....SRPEDD
Sisar Botelho.....SRPEDD
Jeff Walker.....SRPEDD
Dan Brogan.....SRPEDD
Jen Chaves.....SRPEDD
Noah Soutier.....SRPEDD

Handouts:

JTPG Meeting Agenda for December 10, 2025
DRAFT November 12, 2025, JTPG Meeting Minutes

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call:

Chair Victoria Alfaro called the meeting to order at 2:02 PM. Andrea Duarte-Campos 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:

- Victoria Alfaro, Chair.....Town of Acushnet
- Byron Holmes.....Town of Berkley
- John Woods..... Town of Carver
- Tim Barber.....Town of Dartmouth
- Joshua Crabb.....Town of Fairhaven
- Dan Aguiar.....City of Fall River
- Franklin Moniz..... Town of Lakeville
- Josh Reinke..... Town of Mansfield
- Norman Hills.....Town of Marion
- Janice Robbins.....Town of Mattapoisett
- Adam Hart.....City of New Bedford
- Michael Borg.....Town of North Attleborough
- TJ Torres.....Town of Plainville
- Norm Sturtevant.....Town of Raynham
- Katherine Nunes.....City of Taunton
- Alan Slavin.....At-Large, City of New Bedford

2. Approval of Minutes – November 12, 2025 (Materials Attached & roll call vote needed)

Chair Alfaro-Duran called for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2025, meeting. The motion was made by Alan Slavin and seconded by Norm Hills. Ms. Duarte-Campos then called the roll:

- Town of Acushnet.....Yes
- Town of Berkley.....Yes
- Town of Carver.....Abstain
- Town of DartmouthYes
- Town of FairhavenYes
- City of Fall RiverYes
- Town of Lakeville.....Abstain
- Town of MansfieldYes
- Town of MarionYes
- Town of MattapoisettYes

City of New Bedford Yes
Town of North Attleborough.....Yes
Town of PlainvilleYes
Town of RaynhamYes
City of TauntonYes
At-Large, City of New Bedford.....Yes

THE MOTION PASSED WITH 2 ABSTENTIONS.

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

There were no comments offered.

4. Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) Report - RTA Updates

Mary Ellen DeFrias from GATRA reported that ridership continues to increase with the gateway link which connects Fall River, Taunton, and Brockton. Ms. DeFrias reported that GATRA has received funding to continue the service for another year. She hopes that at the beginning of next year, GATRA can figure out ways to expand the service to add weekend day and additional times during the week. She stated that GATRA started fare free service in October. Over the past three months, she reported that there has not been an increase in ridership due to fare free service. She reported that there will be new buses coming at the beginning of the new year, opening more ways to improve service. GATRA would like to expand service to Sundays but would need significantly more drivers to do so. She anticipated that the Wareham facility will be completed in December and open in January.

Gail Rodrigues asked if the new buses are going to be electric. Ms. DeFrias responded that the new buses will be diesel as GATRA is at capacity with electric buses at this time.

Christina Mendoza from SRTA reported that regional ridership continues to increase. SRTA has received additional funding from MassDOT for the 9X SRTA Route, an express route connecting Fall River and New Bedford. She stated that SRTA has partnered with RIPTA to submit a grant to expand 24L service, which comes into the Fall River terminal. Ms. Mendoza noted that SRTA is wrapping up the CRTP which should be finished in January and continuing development of the FY25 ridership report.

5. Community of Practice Discussion – Opportunity for Members to Share Questions, Project Updates, Challenges, Success Stories, Lessons Learned

Katherine Nunes from Taunton shared that community members reached out and asked if there were any changes to the city’s river trail project for the 2028 TIP year. Jackie Jones from SRPEDD responded that the MPO agenda will go out today and includes changes to the trail project. She stated that based on recent MassDOT analysis, the project’s current cost estimate was too high for the year it was

programmed to, and the projected cost increase pushed the project construction year out to 2030. This allows time to investigate current changes to the cost assessment.

Gail Rodrigues shared that she received an email about Save the Harbor, Better Beaches grant program and will forward information to Lisa from SRPEDD.

6. MassDOT Presentation on Intersection Control Evaluation

Sasha Wood from MassDOT provided a presentation on Intersection Control Evaluation (ICE) process for the intersection control evaluation for municipalities. She explained what the ICE Process is, its evolution through the MassDOT Design Process, timeline of implementation, applicability, implementation, fatal flaws, data regarding timelines, and outcomes.

7. 2025 SMMPO Public Participation Plan (Roll Call Vote Needed to recommend to SMMPO for endorsement)

Andrea Duarte-Campos from SRPEDD gave an update on the Public Participation Plan. She stated that the plan was released for public comment on October 21, 2025. She gave a reminder of items changed in the plan, including evaluation metrics, reflection of federal policy changes, language about alternate meeting notice process, changes in virtual meeting procedures, more clarity on public participation process, an addition of a glossary, list of tools in our toolkit for public engagement, maps for Title IV populations in the region, checklists for accessibility, and visual graphics.

She stated that during the comment period, the draft plan was advertised at the JTPG and SMMPO meetings. Further, the plan was posted on the SRPEDD website, social media accounts, and the webpage held a summary of changes to the plan and link to the comment form. Additionally, the draft plan was sent in a mass email to over 100 community partners in the region. A virtual public meeting was held on November 18, 2025, and a press release was posted on the website. She stated that one comment was received via the online form from a staff person at a developmental support organization in Attleboro. The comment referred to families with young children who are isolated because they do not have access to transportation and inquired about expanding transportation opportunities for families with children who need car seats. Ms. Duarte-Campos stated that staff is connecting with community partners to learn more about these options and provide a response.

Ms. Duarte-Campos noted a few more changes made during the comment period, including more graphics, adding clarity that work requests for SMMPO staff are mostly coming from local planners, DPWs, and town administration but can also come from officially designated town committees. Additionally, appendices were added with disclaimers on language accommodations and guidelines for designing public engagement activities. Ms. Duarte asked if there were any further questions about the plan and asked the JTPG for a vote to recommend the Plan to the SMMPO for endorsement.

Chair Alfaro called for a motion to recommend the 2025 Public Participation Plan to the SMMPO for endorsement. The motion was made by Alan Slavin and seconded by John Woods. Ms. Duarte-Campos then called the roll:

- Town of Acushnet.....Yes
- Town of Berkley.....Yes
- Town of Carver.....Yes
- Town of DartmouthYes
- Town of FairhavenYes
- City of Fall RiverYes
- Town of Lakeville.....Yes
- Town of MansfieldYes
- Town of MarionYes
- Town of MattapoisettYes
- City of New Bedford Yes
- Town of North Attleborough.....Yes
- Town of PlainvilleYes
- Town of RaynhamYes
- Town of Somerset.....Yes
- City of TauntonYes
- At-Large, City of New Bedford.....Yes

8. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. 2025 SMMPO Language Assistance Plan (Roll Call Vote Needed to recommend to SMMPO for adoption)

Jen Chaves from SRPEDD stated that there were no comments received during the public comment period for the Language Assistance Plan. The draft Language Assistance Plan was shared out via all the same channels as the draft Public Participation Plan. She explained that main changes made to the LAP were updating the census data and adding the Department of Education data. She asked if anyone had questions about the plan and asked the JTPG for a vote to recommend the plan to the SMMPO for adoption. No questions were raised.

Chair Alfaro called for a motion to recommend the 2025 Language Assistance Plan to the SMMPO for adoption. The motion was made by Alan Slavin and seconded by Gloria Saddler. Ms. Duarte-Campos then called the roll:

- Town of Acushnet.....Yes
- Town of Berkley.....Yes
- Town of Carver.....Yes
- Town of DartmouthYes
- Town of FairhavenYes
- City of Fall RiverYes
- Town of Lakeville.....Yes

Town of MansfieldYes
Town of MarionYes
Town of MattapoisettYes
City of New Bedford Yes
Town of North Attleborough.....Yes
Town of PlainvilleYes
Town of RaynhamYes
Town of Somerset.....Yes
City of TauntonYes
At-Large, City of Fall River.....Yes
At-Large, City of New Bedford.....Yes

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. Presentation on TIP Projects from Fairhaven: 613931 Corridor Improvements on Sconticut Neck Road, From Route 6 to Goulart Memorial Drive (Not currently programmed)

Jackie Jones from SRPEDD explained that during the annual TIP development process, an opportunity is given to TIP project proponents to give a presentation on what their project is proposing, with the goal of providing information to decision makers.

Joshua Crabb from the Town of Fairhaven introduced Dylan Skinner from TEC Inc. to present on the Fairhaven: 613931 Corridor Improvements on Sconticut Neck Road, From Route 6 to Goulart Memorial Drive project. Mr. Skinner presented the early stages of the proposed project. He explained the reallocation of the roadway cross-section to make space for multi-modal facilities and increase vehicular safety along the corridor, including measures to slow speeds. He highlighted the need to promote healthy transportation by improving bicycle and pedestrian mobility and safety. Mr. Skinner explained the need to build critical connection to West Island, build upon complete streets improvements, make safety improvements at intersections, upgrade aging infrastructure, and expand sewer. Data collection has been underway with vehicle counts and speed data. He showed pictures of current pavement conditions and markings to point out issues along the corridor, including pedestrian safety concerns. He concluded with early design options along the corridor, and stated goals to improve multimodal mobility, safety, traffic calming efforts, and promote healthy transportation.

Will Gardner, Chair of Livable Streets Alliance in Fairhaven, shared that the northern part of the corridor is more populated than the southern segment. Mr. Gardner explained that traffic calming makes sense for the northern part of the corridor. He has experience with Safe Routes to School and explains that bike lanes that were made for kids to travel in are not protected; they are only buffered. He and other committee members often bike to school with their kids and would not let their kids use those bike lanes while cars are traveling 35MPH down the road. He explained the need for protected bike lanes or at least having facilities off the road. He shared positive reactions to a shared use path on one side but provided insight as to potential challenges of only having it on one side. Mr. Skinner

responded that as the design continues to develop, they will seek to evaluate design options and best treatments for bike facilities.

10. Critical Rural and Urban Freight Corridor Proposed Considerations (Roll Call Vote Needed to recommend to SMMPO for release to public comment)

Lisa Estrela-Pedro from SRPEDD presented background information on freight corridor designation and freight movement requests from MassDOT. The goal is to determine which roadways could be considered for freight corridor designation. SRPEDD determined roadways for freight corridor designations based on those that met criteria such as a high number of trucks, connected to existing industrial parks and major highways, and near existing areas with truck travel time reliability issues. Ms. Estrela-Pedro gave an overview of the timeline for the initiative and shared a list of proposed roadway segments for freight corridor designation. Jackie Jones presented a map of the region which includes the roadways for freight corridor designations. She provided a brief explanation for the roadways shown on the map and stated that staff are working to make the map available to the JTPG and public.

Lisa Estrela-Pedro asked if anyone had questions and asked the JTPG for a vote to recommend the proposed roadways to the SMMPO for release to a 21-day public comment period. Shaun Handy from MassDOT District 5 prefaced that there are corridors and roadways that are already identified as freight corridors in the region. He asked if these roadways are in addition to the already identified freight corridors. Ms. Jones responded that these are new proposed roadways for designation.

Chair Alfaro called for a motion to recommend the Critical Rural and Urban Freight Corridor Proposed Considerations to the SMMPO for public comment. The motion was made by Alan Slavin and seconded by Norm Hills. Ms. Duarte-Campos then called the roll:

- Town of Acushnet.....Yes
- Town of Berkley.....Yes
- Town of Carver.....Yes
- Town of DartmouthYes
- Town of FairhavenYes
- City of Fall RiverYes
- Town of Lakeville.....Yes
- Town of MansfieldNo response
- Town of MarionYes
- Town of MattapoisettYes
- City of New Bedford Yes
- Town of North Attleborough.....Yes
- Town of PlainvilleYes
- Town of RaynhamYes
- Town of Somerset.....Yes
- City of TauntonYes

At-Large, City of Fall River.....Yes

At-Large, City of New Bedford.....Yes

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11. Other Business

Ms. Estrela-Pedro provided updates and reminders for the group including:

- **MassDOT Complete Streets Funding Program and Shared Streets and Spaces Program, and Community Culverts Program and the Unpaved Roads Program**
 - Various changes and improvements have been made to the Complete Streets Program.

- **Grant Central**
 - Applications due January 9, 2026
 - New Fully Integrated Application for which municipalities fill out one application, and funding is determined based on the project's scope and automatically includes consideration for Complete Streets, Shared Streets and Spaces, Community Culverts, Unpaved Roads Program, etc. grant programs.

- **Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the FY26 BUILD Program**
 - Applications due by 5PM on February 24, 2026
 - Through the LEAP program, there is some capacity to help communities write the grant application. Municipalities can reach out to MassDOT or SRPEDD to be connected to the LEAP MassDOT program coordinator.

- **Cape Cod Bridge Project Public Hearing on December 16 at 6:00 PM**

- **Attleboro Design Public Hearing, South Ave (Rte 123) from Lathrop Rd to Snell St, on December 17 at 6:30 PM**

- **Annual Massachusetts Safe Routes to School Partner Survey is looking for feedback about experiences with the SRTS Program**

- **SRTS Winter Webinar on January 28, 2026 at 12:00 PM to learn about the community approach to SRTS. It is a recorded meeting.**

12. Date and Time for Next Meeting

Date and Time for the next meeting is January 14, 2026, at 2:00 PM as a virtual meeting, in which attendees can join via Zoom.

13. Adjourn

Chair Alfaro asked for a motion to adjourn which was made by Alan Slavin and seconded by Katherine Nunes. Hearing no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 3:19 PM.