

**Draft Minutes of the Southeastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (SMMPO) Meeting on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 1:00 PM - Held remotely via Zoom.**

**The following members were in attendance:**

Derek Shooster-----Representing Phillip Eng, Interim MassDOT Secretary and CEO, **Chair**  
Shaun Handy-----Representing Jonathan Gulliver, MassDOT Highway Div. Administrator  
Christopher McDermott—Representing Cathleen DeSimone, Mayor of Attleboro (joined late)  
Daniel Aguiar-----Representing Paul Coogan, Mayor of Fall River  
Jay Pateakos-----Representing Shauna O’Connell, Mayor of Taunton  
Jamie Ponte-----Representing Jon Mitchell, Mayor of New Bedford  
Josh Reinke-----Representing Michael Feck, Town of Mansfield  
Andrew Romano-----Town of Fairhaven  
Sarah Hewins-----Town of Carver  
Matthew Chabot-----Representing Jennifer Vincent, Town of Berkley  
Marie Clarner-----SRPEDD Commission Chair  
Corey Hebert-----Representing Erik Rousseau, Southeastern Regional Transit Authority  
Stacy Forte-----Representing Mary Ellen DeFrias, Greater Attleboro and Taunton  
Regional Transit Authority

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

**The following were also in attendance:**

Sandra Medeiros-----South Coast Bikeway Alliance  
Dr. Gloria Saddler-----City of Fall River/ JTPG At-Large Commissioner/Fall River  
Pamela Haznar-----McClure  
Steve Findlen-----Howard Stein Hudson  
Alan Slavin-----Damien’s Food Pantry/JTPG At-Large Commissioner/Wareham  
Diane Hayes-----Massachusetts Department of Transportation  
Christina Mendoza-----Massachusetts Department of Transportation  
Barbara Lachance-----Massachusetts Department of Transportation  
Stephanie Gray-----Office of Congressman Auchincloss  
Catarina Perreira-----Office of Congressman Auchincloss  
Kian Dana-----Office of Congressman Auchincloss  
Norman Watson-----Member of the public  
Lisa Estrela-Pedro-----SRPEDD  
Jackie Jones-----SRPEDD  
Andrea Duarte-Campos-SRPEDD

Dan Brogan-----SRPEDD  
Noah Soutier-----SRPEDD  
Jen Chaves-----SRPEDD  
Sean Hilton-----SRPEDD

**Handouts:**

SMMPO Agenda January 20, 2026  
SMMPO Draft Meeting Minutes December 16, 2025  
FFY2026-2030 TIP Proposed Amendment 3  
SMMPO Critical Rural and Urban Freight Corridors Presentation

**AGENDA:**

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

Chairman Shooster called the SMMPO meeting to order at 1:01 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 Taunton-----Yes  
City of Fall River-----Yes  
Town of Mansfield-----Yes  
Town of Carver-----Yes  
Town of Berkley-----Yes  
SRTA-----Yes

**2. Approval of Minutes – December 16, 2025 (Materials Attached and Roll Call Vote Needed)**

Chairman Shooster requested a motion to approve the minutes from the December 16, 2025, SMMPO meeting. The motion was made by Dan Aguiar and seconded by Jay Pateakos. Ms. Duarte-Campos then called the roll:

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

Town of Fairhaven-----Yes  
Town of Carver-----Yes  
Town of Berkley-----Yes  
SRPEDD Commission Chair-----Yes  
SRTA-----Yes  
GATRA-----No response

**THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3. Public Comments**

Chairman Shooster invited members of the public to make comments, and none were provided.

**4. Regional Transit Authorities Report – RTA Updates**

Stacy Forte from GATRA stated that GATRA is continuing work on its Wareham facility, which is slightly delayed but should be open in late Spring. She stated that starting with New Year’s Day, GATRA is now running Saturday service on all previously unserved holidays except for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Corey Hebert from SRTA stated that ridership continues to grow, and there are no other big changes at this time.

**5. Advance Construction Presentation**

Jackie Jones reminded the group that as TIP development and voting season is approaching, staff have had a lot of questions about the “Advanced Construction” funding mechanism. Ms. Jones explained that advanced construction is a flexible budgeting tool available to help manage large transportation projects. She explained that it allows the cost of a project to be spread over multiple fiscal years when the total cost exceeds half of the region’s annual funding target (for example, projects over \$15 million if the target is around \$30 million). This approach does not require a project to be phased or divided in scope; it simply helps keep projects on schedule while maintaining fiscal constraint. Ms. Jones provided examples from recent TIPs where projects with significant cost increases were still able to move forward on time by splitting funding across years, including cases where unexpected cost increases were partially shifted into a later fiscal year without affecting project delivery.

**6. FFY2026-2030 TIP Proposed Amendment #3:**

- 1) 606527 New Bedford – Bridge Replacement, N-06-020, I-195 (EB&WB), Ramp C&F over ST 18, County Street, State Street, MassCoastal Railroad, Purchase Street, Weld Street, Includes improvements to N-06-021, N-06-022, F-01-088 – Cost Decrease**
- 2) S13384 Taunton – Danforth Street Bridge Reconstruction Project – Federal Earmark for Design – add into FY2026**

- 3) Transit – GATRA – 011969 Wareham - Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit Authority – East Maintenance Facility – Increase in RTACAP funds in FY2026**
  - 4) 610802 Somerset – Stormwater Improvements along Route 103 – Addition of project in FY2026 (Statewide)**
  - 5) 613359 Freetown – Freetown Elementary School (SRTS) move from FY2027 to FY2029**
  - 6) 606089 Freetown – Bridge Replacement, F-09-010, N. Main Street over ST 24 move from FY2027 to FY2028 and Cost Increase**
  - 7) 611980 Somerset – Intersection Improvements at Route 6 and Lees River Ave – move from FY2028 to FY2029**
- (Materials Attached, Roll Call Vote Needed to Endorse)**

Ms. Jones reminded the group that at the last SMMPO meeting, there were a number of proposed amendments to the FFY 2026-2030 TIP, a majority of which were based on a statewide maintenance exercise which adjusted project schedules, costs, and readiness before formal TIP development to help TIP development cycle flow more smoothly. She stated each of the proposed project changes and reasons which were explained at the last meeting. The SMMPO board voted to release the proposed Amendment 3 to a 21-day comment period. A public meeting was held, and there were no comments received there or elsewhere. She asked the body for a vote to approve the Amendment as presented.

The Chair asked if there were any questions on FFY2026-2030 TIP Proposed Amendment #3 and seeing none asked for a motion to endorse it as presented. The motion was made by Dan Aguiar and seconded by Sarah Hewins. The Chair asked Ms. Duarte-Campos to read the roll as follows:

- MassDOT Chair-----Yes
- MassDOT Administrator-----Yes
- City of New Bedford-----Abstain
- City of Taunton-----Yes
- City of Fall River-----Yes
- Town of Mansfield-----Yes
- Town of Fairhaven-----No response
- Town of Carver-----Yes
- Town of Berkley-----Yes
- SRPEDD Commission Chair-----Yes
- SRTA-----Yes
- GATRA-----No response

**THE MOTION PASSED WITH ONE ABSTENTION.**

**7. Critical Rural and Urban Freight Corridor Proposed Considerations (Materials Attached, Roll Call Vote Needed to Endorse)**

Lisa Estrela-Pedro reminded the group of the announcement presented at the last SMMPO meeting, explaining that MassDOT is updating its freight plan and, as part of that process, the region was allocated additional mileage for both critical rural and urban freight corridors. These new designations were based on factors such as proximity to industrial parks and truck volumes and are in addition to the existing freight corridors. She explained that the critical and urban freight corridors were shared along with the meeting agenda and discussed at the previous meeting, and any concerns raised—specifically by Carver—were addressed through follow-up discussion. Ms. Estrela-Pedro stated that a public meeting was also held, and no further comments were received on this initiative. She noted that these designations open additional funding opportunities for the affected roadways. She reminded the group that the Joint Transportation Planning Group has already voted to recommend endorsement of the additional corridors and asked the body for a vote to endorse the freight corridor lists as presented.

The Chair asked if there were any questions on the SMMPO’s proposed Critical Rural and Urban Freight Corridor designations and seeing none asked for a motion to endorse it as presented. The motion was made by Dan Aguiar and seconded by Sarah Hewins. The Chair asked Ms. Duarte-Campos to read the roll as follows:

MassDOT Chair-----Yes  
MassDOT Administrator-----Yes  
City of Attleboro-----Yes  
City of New Bedford-----Yes  
City of Taunton-----Yes  
City of Fall River-----Yes  
Town of Mansfield-----Yes  
Town of Fairhaven-----No response  
Town of Carver-----Yes  
Town of Berkley-----Yes  
SRPEDD Commission Chair-----Yes  
SRTA-----Yes  
GATRA-----No response

**THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**8. Other Business**

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

- **NOFO for FY26 BUILD program (formerly RAISE)**
  - Applications are due by 5pm on February 24, 2026
- **AARP Community Challenge Grants**

- Annual “quick action” grant program funds local projects that help make communities more livable for people of all ages
- Due: March 4, 2026
- **Cyber Resilient Massachusetts Grant Program**
  - Applications accepted on rolling basis
- **MassDOT Grant Central Updates & New Grant Programs Launch**
  - Webinar Recording: [MassDOT - Grant Central - MA Federal Funds Partnership December 2025](#)
- **Safe Routes to School Winter Webinar**
  - January 28, 2026 at 12PM
- **Municipal Transition Plan Development & Tracking for Accessibility Training**
  - March 3, 2026 – Virtual
- **Creating Accessible Pedestrian Communities Training**
  - March 11, 2026 – Virtual
- **MA Safe Routes to School E-bike Webinar**
  - March 4, 2026 at 12PM
- **Complete Streets 201: Designing Your Streets for People-**
  - In Barnstable, January 28, 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM
- **Complete Streets 306: Public Engagement by UMTC/Baystate Roads**
  - In Barnstable, January 29, 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM
- **MassDOT Innovation Conference**
  - May 5-6, 2026, Worcester

#### **9. Date and Time for Next Meeting**

The Chair announced that the next SMMPO meeting will be on February 17, 2026, at 1:00 pm, held virtually on Zoom.

#### **10. Adjourn**

The Chair asked for a motion and second to adjourn. Dan Aguiar 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 1:19 PM.