

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

DRAFT Minutes for the JTPG Meeting

Held on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 2:00 PM

Held via Zoom in Accordance with Massachusetts Open Meeting Law

The following members and alternates were in attendance:

Victoria Alfaro.....Town of Acushnet
John Woods..... Town of Carver
Tim Barber.....Town of Dartmouth
Ralph Vitacco.....Town of Dighton
Joshua Crabb.....Town of Fairhaven
Dan Aguiar.....City of Fall River
Nancy Durfee.....Town of Freetown
Josh Reinke.....Town of Mansfield
Franklin Moniz..... Town of Lakeville
Norman Hills.....Town of Marion
Adam Hart.....City of New Bedford
TJ Torres.....Town of Plainville
William O'Rourke.....Town of Plainville
Amy Messier.....Town of Somerset
Joshua Faherty.....Town of Wareham
Chris Vitale.....Town of Westport
Alan Slavin.....At-Large, New Bedford
Gloria Saddler.....At-Large, Fall River

The following members/alternates were NOT in attendance:

Town of Berkley
City of Attleboro
Town of Mattapoisett
Town of Middleborough
Town of North Attleborough
Town of Norton
Town of Raynham
Town of Rehoboth
Town of Rochester

Town of Seekonk
Town of Swansea
City of Taunton
At-Large, Attleboro
At-Large, Taunton
At-Large Attleboro

Also in Attendance:

Jamie Pisano.....VHB
Derek Shooster.....MassDOT
Shaun Handy.....MassDOT
Mary Ellen DeFrias.....GATRA
Emma Yeh.....PARE Corporation
Willie Barrera.....Member of the Public
Grant King.....SRPEDD
Lisa Estrela-Pedro.....SRPEDD
Jackie Jones.....SRPEDD
Andrea Duarte-Campos.....SRPEDD
Maya Couto.....SRPEDD
Sisar Botelho.....SRPEDD
Dan Brogan.....SRPEDD
Jen Chaves.....SRPEDD
Noah Soutier.....SRPEDD

Handouts:

JTPG Meeting Agenda for February 11, 2026
DRAFT January 14, 2026, JTPG Meeting Minutes

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call:

Chair Victoria Alfaro called the meeting to order at 2:00 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:

Byron Holmes.....Town of Berkley
John Woods.....Town of Carver
Tim Barber.....Town of Dartmouth
Ralph Vitacco.....Town of Dighton

Dan Aguiar.....City of Fall River
 Franklin Moniz..... Town of Lakeville
 Norman Hills.....Town of Marion
 Janice Robbins.....Town of Mattapoisett
 TJ Torres.....Town of Plainville
 Norm Sturtevant.....Town of Raynham
 David Cabral.....Town of Seekonk
 Amy Messier.....Town of Somerset
 Katherine Nunes.....City of Taunton
 Chris Vitale.....Town of Westport

2. Approval of Minutes – January 14, 2026 (Materials Attached & roll call vote needed)

Chair Victoria Alfaro called for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2026 meeting. The motion was made by Norm Hills and seconded by Dan Aguiar. Ms. Duarte-Campos then called the roll:

Town of Acushnet.....Abstain
 Town of Carver.....Yes
 Town of Dartmouth.....Yes
 Town of Dighton.....Yes
 Town of Fairhaven.....Yes
 City of Fall River.....Yes
 Town of Freetown.....Abstain
 Town of Lakeville.....Yes
 Town of Mansfield.....Yes
 Town of Marion.....Yes
 City of New Bedford.....Abstain
 Town of Plainville.....Yes
 Town of Somerset.....Yes
 Town of Wareham.....Yes
 Town of Westport.....Abstain

THE MOTION PASSED WITH 4 ABSTENTIONS.

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

No comments were offered.

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

Mary Ellen DeFrias from GATRA reported that the Gateway Link connecting Brockton, Taunton, and Fall River had greater ridership beyond initial expectation. The first month saw a ridership of 1,200 people and grew to over 3,000 people in December. She stated that this helps frame planning going forward on how to better connect the southeastern region, emphasizing the need for intercity connection. Ms. DeFrias stated that construction of the Wareham transit facility is close to completion.

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

No comments were offered.

6. Safety Performance Measures (PM1) Presentation

Christina Mendoza with MassDOT presented safety performance measures for calendar year 2026. Ms. Mendoza provided an overview of the three categories of performance measures, Safety Performance Measures (PM1), Bridge and Pavement Performance Measures (PM2), and Reliability, Congestion, & Emissions Performance Measures (PM3). The presentation given was relevant to the PM1 category, improving safety. Ms. Mendoza provided data on motorized total fatality and serious injury trends overtime as well as non-motorized combined fatality and serious injury trends. The projected targets show decreased fatality and serious injury rates overall. She emphasized that the goal is 0 fatalities.

Jackie Jones from SRPEDD presented a comparison of SRPEDD safety performance versus adopted targets. She stated that the SMMPO has chosen to adopt the statewide safety performance goals and discussed how crash statistics in the SRPEDD region contribute towards meeting statewide goals. Ms. Jones stated that fatality numbers have remained steady; however, the regional fatality and serious injury rates are higher than the state average. Similarly, the number of nonmotorized fatalities and serious injuries is increasing. She emphasized efforts by the SMMPO to reduce the number of fatalities through the recent development of the Southeastern Massachusetts Regional Safety Action Plan and prioritizing TIP projects that address safety.

Joshua Crabb from Fairhaven asked what the goal is between MassDOT and SRPEDD in helping snow removal on sidewalks in communities, seeing how it can interfere with the goal of 0 fatalities if sidewalks are not cleared for pedestrians. He asked if there is any work towards assistance. Ms. Lisa Estrela-Pedro responded that they could get back to Joshua with some answers. Chair Victoria Alfaro added that she had similar inquiries regarding snow removal efforts and would appreciate that if a conversation does happen that answers be shared with the group.

7. FFY2027-2031 TIP Development / Opportunity for Community Input on Project Status

Ms. Jones presented a recap of the FFY2027-2031 TIP Development Readiness Days Recap which is a MassDOT hosted event where various branches of MassDOT meet with regional planning agencies and provide recommendations on which year a project should be programmed. She provided information about funding regarding transit projects, use of advance construction programming, what project readiness means, an explanation of regional target versus statewide programming, and provided resources regarding funding categories. Ms. Jones provided information for projects in our region currently programmed in the FFY2026-2030 TIP including recommended years and updated cost estimates for FFY2027-2031 TIP development. She also provided a list of potential projects for funding in the outer years of the TIP if funding is available. She discussed increasing project costs and explained that projects will likely be shifted around in programmed years for readiness and fiscal constraints. She shared that SMMPO staff are working on Evaluation Criteria Scores and will have scenarios the body can vote on ready for the March JTPG and SMMPO meetings.

Mr. Torres from Plainville mentioned that there will be some land takings to widen the intersection and streets related to the Plainville Reconstruction of South Street (Route 1A) (608750) project current programmed for federal fiscal year 2027. He asked if they should be looking to appropriate the money in 2026 or 2027. Ms. Jones said that the question would be best answered by the MassDOT Right-of-Way department. She said that she can follow up and provide him a contact person. Mr. Shooster offered assistance on answering the question through Ms. Jones. He said that the readiness days recommendation was to hold the project for 2027; however, there were concerns raised about traffic volume and the town's experience with federal aid projects.

8. Other Business

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

- **MassDOT Innovation Conference**
 - May 5th and 6th, DCU Worcester
 - Early Registration Ends Feb 28th
- **Project Review Committee – Next Meeting April 14th, 2026**
 - Project Submissions due in MaPIT Monday, March 16th, 2026
- **North Attleborough – Bridge Replacement, Br#N-16-004, Mendon Road over Abbott Run River – Project No. 607348, Virtual Design Public Hearing, Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 7:00pm**

9. Date and Time for Next Meeting

The date and time for the next meeting is March 11, 2026, at 2:00 PM as a virtual meeting, in which attendees can join via Zoom.

10. Adjourn

Chair Victoria Alfaro asked for a motion to adjourn which was made by Josh Reinke and seconded by Tim Barber. Hearing no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 2:41 PM.