

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

DRAFT Minutes for the JTPG Meeting

Held on Wednesday, March 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
Byron Holmes.....Town of Berkley
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
Janice Robbins.....Town of Mattapoisett
Franklin Moniz..... Town of Lakeville
Norman Hills.....Town of Marion
Adam Hart.....City of New Bedford
William O'Rourke.....Town of Plainville
Amy Messier.....Town of Somerset
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 Middleborough
Town of North Attleborough
Town of Norton
Town of Raynham
Town of Rehoboth
Town of Rochester
Town of Seekonk

Town of Swansea
Town of Wareham
At-Large, Attleboro
At-Large, Taunton

Also in Attendance:

Christina Mendoza.....MassDOT
Derek Shooster.....MassDOT
Shaun Handy.....MassDOT
Barabra Lachance.....MassDOT
Diane Hayes.....MassDOT
Mary Ellen DeFrias.....GATRA
Emma Yeh.....PARE Corporation
Robert Price..... South Coast Bikeway Alliance
Bonne DeSousa.....South Coast Bikeway Alliance
Miles Grant.....
Phil Viveiros.....Bowman
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 March 11, 2026
DRAFT February 11, 2026, JTPG Meeting Minutes
FY2026-2030 Amendment #4
GATRA FFY2027-2031 Project Lists
GATRA FFY2027-2031 Project Lists
SRTA FFY2027-2031 Project Lists
TIP Development Scenarios 1a, 1b, 2, and 3

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call:

Chair Victoria Alfaro called the meeting to order at 2:03 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.....Town of Acushnet
- Byron Holmes.....Town of Berkley
- 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
- Franklin Moniz..... Town of Lakeville
- Josh Reinke.....Town of Mansfield
- Janice Robbins.....Town of Mattapoisett
- Adam Hart.....City of New Bedford
- William O'Rourke.....Town of Plainville
- Amy Messier.....Town of Somerset
- Jim Howland.....City of Taunton
- Chris Vitale.....Town of Westport
- Alan Slavin.....At-Large, New Bedford
- Gloria Saddler.....At-Large, Fall River

2. Approval of Minutes – February 11, 2026 (Materials Attached & roll call vote needed)

Chair Victoria Alfaro called for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2026 meeting. The motion was made by Dan Aguiar and seconded by Alan Slavin. Ms. Duarte-Campos then called the roll:

- Town of Acushnet.....Yes
- Town of Berkley.....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.....Yes
- Town of Lakeville.....Yes
- Town of Mansfield.....Yes
- Town of Mattapoisett.....Abstain
- City of New Bedford.....Yes

Town of Plainville.....Yes
 Town of Somerset.....Yes
 City of Taunton.....Abstain
 Town of Westport.....Yes
 At-Large, New Bedford.....Yes
 At-Large, Fall River.....Yes

THE MOTION PASSED WITH 3 ABSTENTIONS.

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

No comments were offered.

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

Ms. Mary Ellen DeFrias reported that GATRA is actively working through the budget to expand transit service. She stated that GATRA is short on drivers and to spread word if anyone with a CDL license would be interested in driving for GATRA. She added that the Wareham facility is almost complete, that they are waiting for warm weather and the installation of another gas line.

Janice from Mattapoisett asked about GATRA’s service plan for World Cup event in Foxborough, MA. Ms. DeFrias responded that GATRA has a few plans but needs to wait on confirmation of funding to roll out plans. She assumed GATRA would be servicing hotels in the area but cannot confirm just yet.

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

Ms. Lisa Estrela-Pedro said that SRPEDD is doing research on the region’s snow removal policies to provide information to Shaun Handy from Fairhaven regarding responsibility for snow removal on sidewalks.

6. FFY2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #4 – Addition of two projects in FY2026 (Materials Attached):

Jackie Jones provided an overview of proposed Amendment #4 to the FFY2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) which will be considered for release to a public comment period at the SMMPO the following week as follows:

- a. **609193 Norton – Intersection Improvements at West Main Street (Route 123), North Worcester Street and South Worcester Street.** Ms. Jones mentioned that this project was added to the amendment after the agenda was sent out. She explained that the project was reported to be at final design and therefore could be funded in FY2026 instead of FY2027 to make use of available funding and to free up funding in FY2027 for additional projects.
- b. **613106 Rehoboth Deck Replacement, R-04-018 (3U4, 3U5), I-105 (EB/WB) over Palmer River.** Ms. Jones explained that the Deck Replacement over Palmer River in Rehoboth is a new project being added to be funded for 2026 based on project readiness and available funding.
- c. **S13419 Fairhaven: Steamship Authority – Construction of two (2) New Vehicle Transfer Bridgers, Gallows, Counterweights and Related Equipment for the Steamship Authority’s Fairhaven Vessel Maintenance Facility** Ms. Jones said that the Steamship Authority project in Fairhaven is being funded for 2026 due to project readiness and available funding. This project will be using ferry boat funding that is available.

7. Draft 2027-2031 TIP MassDOT Statewide Highway Projects List (Materials Attached)

Ms. Lisa Estrela-Pedro presented a list of MassDOT statewide highway projects. The list described which projects receive state target funding and what year the project is programmed. She described that the list shows a comparison of projects that were funded for the 2026-2030 TIP and where those projects will be programmed in the 2027-2031 TIP.

She stated that some bridge projects have delays and that there is an addition of three new projects. One project that was added is upgrading to Interstate 195, under city hall, in Fall River. The other is adding rapid flashing beacons at various locations statewide. Lastly, a project along Wood Street in Middleboro, relating to Safe Routes to School.

Alan Slavin mentioned a project in Wareham that is to conduct replacements on Route 125 and Route 6. He stated that Wareham has started the process of possibly removing the Tremont dam upstream and Parker Mill? dam near Buzzards Bay. He expressed that the release of the dams would have a substantial effect on recently repaired bridges before Route 128. He said

that he will try to get them to notify MassDOT of the newly modified bridges since the volume of water from releasing the dams will affect the underlying dams and bridges.

8. Draft 2027-2031 TIP Transit Project Lists (Materials Attached)

Dan Brogan presented the Draft 2027-2031 TIP Transit Project Lists for GATRA. He highlighted that \$3.3 million will be going to the Parcel 6A Solar project for electrification and power distribution which will benefit the increasing fleet of electric buses. He continued that about \$13 million is programmed for ten replacement 35-foot battery electric buses and two 35-foot diesel bus replacements. He stated that there is \$500,000 programmed for computer IT upgrades and \$9 million for GATRA van replacements.

Mr. Brogan described the funding programmed for SRTA. He stated \$82 million is programmed for the Fall River maintenance facility. He continued that there is \$1.4 million going to the New Bedford terminal parking garage for renovation. Lastly, there is \$900,000 going towards maintenance for bus washing systems in New Bedford and \$1.5 million for Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) which helps with real-time traffic management detection, cameras in buses, advance warning on collision detection. This helps to improve safety for bus operators and riders and assists in dispatch communication. \$11 million is programmed for twelve 35-foot hybrid buses. \$150,000 going to site revamps and improving accessibility on the SRTA website.

9. Draft 2027-2031 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Regional Target Highway Project Programming Scenarios (Materials Attached & Roll Call Vote Needed to recommend to the SMMPO)

Ms. Jones presented funding scenarios for a potential combination of projects to use state and federal funding. She explained that the funding scenarios were developed using recommendations from MassDOT, available funding, and evaluation scores.

She stated that in all the scenarios, FY2027 is very similar. She explained that there is likely to be \$7 million available for 2027 because there were not enough projects ready for 2027 to use all the funding. She noted that there was a slight cost increase for a Westport intersection improvement project and highlighted that the Norton Intersection Improvement project will likely be moved from FY2027 to FY2026. She mentioned the other change to FY 2027 is pushing the Mansfield Chauncy St (Route 106) improvements (Phase II) project to 2029 or later based on project readiness and available funding.

In scenario 1A, the Mansfield project will move to 2029, the Westport project would stay in 2027 and Plainville Route 1A project would stay in 2027. In 2028, the Middleboro project would go through advanced construction and be split between three years due to the cost increase. The Mattapoisett project would stay in 2028. In FY2028, the New Bedford intersection Improvements at Mount Pleasant St and Nash Road will stay. The New Bedford corridor improvements on Tarklin Hill Road and Ashley Boulevard project would move to 2029.

In scenario 1A, there would still be around \$11 million if we did not bring in a new project. She stated that this scenario would have the Mattapoisett shared-use path project from Depot St to North St added to be programmed for 2031.

She mentioned that Scenario 1B would have projects programmed as they are in Scenario 1A, however, that the additional project would be the highest scoring project. Jackie recommended that the Swansea corridor improvements be added since it better uses available funding and scores higher.

Ms. Jones stated that Scenario 2 is only based on readiness. Scenario 2 is similar to 1A and 1B in FY2027 and 2028, but had various changes in FY 2029-2031. She explained that this scenario would leave an amount of funding on the table.

Jim Howland asked about the Taunton rail trail project that was moved to 2028 or 2029. Ms. Jones clarified that the project would be on the statewide project list.

Derek Shooster from MassDOT added that the state bike and pedestrian program has \$10 million in 2030 and \$20.3 Million in 2031 programmed for the Taunton rail trail project.

Ms. Jones explained scenario 3 is based on scoring and readiness. In scenario 3, projects programmed for 2027 are similar to that of previous scenarios. Middleboro is fully programmed for one year in 2028. Mattapoisett project would then be funded in 2029. New Bedford intersection improvements would stay. New Bedford corridor improvements would move out two years. In 2029, projects in Mansfield, Mattapoisett, and Attleboro would be moved out. Taunton intersection improvements at Winthrop St would be moved forward to 2029 in this scenario. The scenario would leave \$5.6 million in funding left, which would not be enough to bring any new projects. Ms. Jones added this scenario would be the least viable.

Victoria Alfaro stated that scenario 3 is not preferable for Mattapoisett because the project being pushed out would conflict with other upcoming projects that tie into the TIP project. She mentioned that there is a culvert that is almost at complete design near the TIP project

location. She said that they will be asking for \$2 million for the project at a town meeting in the Spring and this project would begin in 2028. Ms. Alfaro stated that the town expects the project will be done in phases given its location by the shoreline, Town Wharf, and Town Beach. Therefore, delays will have an impact on the final completion date of planned projects.

Ms. Jones asked Ms. Alfaro if her statement was regarding pushing back the corridor improvements project along Main st, Water St, and Beacon St and Marion Rd. Ms. Alfaro confirmed that she was referring to this project. She clarified that she would prefer either scenario 1 or 2.

Barabra Lachance inquired if SRPEDD had a recommended scenario. Ms. Jones responded that scenario 1A or 1B would be the most reasonable as it would best use the funding available and adhere to MassDot project readiness recommendations. She added that if anything changes for 2026, that we may need to revisit these scenarios.

Chair Victoria Alfaro called for a motion to approve the Scenario 1A in the Draft 2027-2031 TIP Regional Target Highway Scenarios. The motion was made by Alan Slavin and seconded by Jim Howland. Ms. Duarte-Campos then called the roll:

- Town of Acushnet.....Yes
- Town of Berkley.....Yes
- Town of Carver.....Yes
- Town of Dartmouth.....Yes
- Town of Dighton.....Yes
- Town of Fairhaven.....Yes
- City of Fall River.....Yes
- Town of Freetown.....Yes
- Town of Lakeville.....Yes
- Town of Mansfield.....Yes
- Town of Mattapoisett.....Yes
- City of New Bedford.....Yes
- Town of Plainville.....Yes
- Town of Somerset.....Yes
- City of Taunton.....Yes
- Town of Westport.....Yes
- At-Large, New Bedford.....Yes
- At-Large, Fall River.....Yes

THE MOTION PASSED WITH UNANIMOUSLY.

10. Other Business

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

- **Project Review Committee – Next Meeting April 14th, 2026**
 - Project Submissions due in MaPIT Monday, March 16th, 2026
- **Transportation Tuesdays Update**
 - Noah Soutier of SRPEDD provided an update on Transportation Tuesdays, which are social media posts which increase awareness of various transportation topics. SRPEDD is asking communities to amplify the post with their social media presence.

11. Date and Time for Next Meeting

The date and time for the next meeting is April 8, 2026, at 2:00 PM as a virtual meeting, in which attendees can join via Zoom.

12. 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 2:44 PM.