

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

DRAFT Minutes for the JTPG Meeting

Held on Wednesday, April 8, 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
Tim Barber.....Town of Dartmouth
Joshua Crabb.....Town of Fairhaven
Dan Aguiar.....City of Fall River
Josh Reinke.....Town of Mansfield
Janice Robbins.....Town of Mattapoisett
Norman Hills.....Town of Marion
Adam Hart.....City of New Bedford
Norman Sturtevant.....Town of Raynham
David Cabral.....Town of Seekonk
Amy Messier.....Town of Somerset
Katherine Nunes.....City of Taunton
Joshua Faherty.....Town of Wareham
Michael Burris.....Town of Westport
Chris McDermott.....At-Large, Attleboro
Alan Slavin.....At-Large, New Bedford
Gloria Saddler.....At-Large, Fall River

The following members/alternates were NOT in attendance:

City of Attleboro
Town of Carver
Town of Dighton
Town of Freetown
Town of Lakeville
Town of Middleborough
Town of North Attleborough
Town of Norton
Town of Plainville

Town of Rehoboth
Town of Rochester
Town of Swansea
At-Large, Taunton

Also in Attendance:

Rhonda Motley..... FHWA
Christina Mendoza.....MassDOT
Shaun Handy.....MassDOT
Barbara Lachance.....MassDOT
Howard Fernandez.....Member of the public
Pamela Haznar.....McClure
Phil Viveiros.....Bowman
Lisa Estrela-Pedro.....SRPEDD
Jackie Jones.....SRPEDD
Andrea Duarte-Campos.....SRPEDD
Maya Couto.....SRPEDD
Dan Brogan.....SRPEDD
Jen Chaves.....SRPEDD
Noah Soutier.....SRPEDD
Sisar Botelho.....SRPEDD
Kevin Ham.....SRPEDD

Handouts:

JTPG Meeting Agenda for April 8, 2026
DRAFT FFY 2027-2031 TIP
DRAFT March 11, 2026, 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.....Town of Acushnet
Byron Holmes.....Town of Berkley
Tim Barber.....Town of Dartmouth

Joshua Crabb.....Town of Fairhaven
 Dan Aguiar.....City of Fall River
 Josh Reinke.....Town of Mansfield
 Janice Robbins.....Town of Mattapoisett
 Norman Hills Town of Marion
 Adam Hart.....City of New Bedford
 Amy Messier.....Town of Somerset
 David Cabral.....Town of Seekonk
 Katherine Nunes.....City of Taunton
 Joshua Faherty.....Town of Wareham
 Chris McDermott.....At-Large, Attleboro
 Gloria Saddler.....At-Large, Fall River

2. Approval of Minutes – March 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 Norm Hills. Ms. Duarte-Campos then called the roll:

Town of Acushnet.....Yes
 Town of Berkley.....No response
 Town of Dartmouth.....Yes
 Town of Fairhaven.....Yes
 City of Fall River.....Yes
 Town of Mansfield.....Yes
 Town of Mattapoisett.....Yes
 Town of Marion.....Yes
 City of New Bedford.....Yes
 Town of Raynham.....Yes
 Town of Seekonk.....Abstain
 Town of Somerset.....Yes
 City of Taunton.....Abstain
 Town of Wareham.....No response
 Town of Westport.....Yes
 At-Large, Attleboro.....Yes
 At-Large, Fall River.....Yes

THE MOTION PASSED WITH 2 ABSTENTIONS.

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

No comments were offered.

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

No comments were offered.

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

Andrea Duarte-Campos discussed the following Community Transit Grant Program recipients and amounts and further explained that the grants help those with disability and limited income:

- Attleboro Young Men’s Christian Association which was awarded \$46,200 for the “Community Access Rides Program,”
- Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit Authority was awarded \$321,707 for “MedWheels,”
- South Shore Community Action Council, Inc. was awarded \$100,000 for the “South Shore Senior Transportation Collaborative,”
- Town of Westport Council on Aging was awarded \$30,000 for “Door to Door Transportation Services.”

Ms. Duarte-Campos discussed the following Complete Streets awards in the region:

- Fairhaven was awarded \$499,850 for the reconstruction of Bridge St,
- Middleboro was awarded \$500,000 for Center St Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements,
- Plainville was awarded \$160,329.65 for the Messenger St and Taunton St Intersection Improvement Project, and
- Westport was awarded \$499,800 for the Sanford Rd Pedestrian and Roadway Safety Improvement Project.

Vicotria expressed interest for communities to share updates about their Complete Streets projects at upcoming meetings as well as updates on communities who have been through Complete Street Grants or Community Transit Grants application processes.

6. Draft FFY 2027-2031 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Presentation (Roll Call Vote Needed to recommend to the SMMPO to release to 21-day public comment period):

Jackie Jones stated that the JTPG group voted on TIP scenario 1A from last meeting, however, some changes have been made since then that affect the selected scenario. She reported project 607871 - Dartmouth Corridor improvements along Route 6 was originally programmed FY2026 in the 2026-2030 TIP, however, it needs to be moved to FY2027. She added that earmarks that were applied to the project in FY2026 will be able to be carried over into FY2027, but there was still a balance of about \$7.5 million. MassDOT proposed that the MPO pick up a

portion of the funding with 2027 funds, which about \$7.1 million is available to go towards that project. MassDOT will pick up the remaining costs.

She continued that the other change is that the MassDOT Project ID 610669 Dartmouth Cross Road Corridor improvements will be ready for an earlier year than initially reported from TIP readiness days. The SMMPO was presented with Scenario 1A and a new Scenario 2 that included the updated project information. She further explained that Scenario 2 was created with respect to the wished of the JTPG vote to select Scenario 1A and that Scenario 2 contained the same projects as Scenario 1A and that due to the movement of projects an additional project was able to be added. She reported that the MPO voted to select Scenario 2, which is included in the current draft.

Shaun Handy from MassDOT asked for the project number that went from 2026 to 2027. Jackie responded that it was project 607871.

Jackie Jones provided an overview of the full FFY 2027-2031 TIP document. She highlighted sections such as the Introduction, Performance Based Measures, Project Development, Public Participation, Coordination with Various Groups, Project Prioritization, Project Descriptions, TIP Project Funding Distribution Analysis, Grant Program Participation (and how the community is taking advantage of grants programs and which communities were awarded), a breakdown of types of funding used in the TIP, the financial plan, amendments/adjustment procedures, air quality conformity determination, appendices of tables that explaining funding, supplemental project lists, greenhouse gas monitoring and evaluation process, federal target reports which explains all funding that comes into the state, obligated projects, operations and expenditures report which is not yet complete, and evaluation criteria of projects.

Norm Hills asked if the draft would be on the website. Jackie showed where the document is located on the website. Lisa Estrela-Pedro added that there was a link to the document on the agenda that Norm can click on.

Chair Victoria Alfaro called for a motion to recommend the Draft FFY 2027-2031 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to the SMMPO for public comment. The motion was made by Norm Hills and seconded by Josh Reinke. Ms. Duarte-Campos then called the roll:

- Town of Acushnet.....Yes
- Town of Dartmouth.....Yes
- Town of Fairhaven.....Yes
- City of Fall River.....Yes
- Town of Mansfield.....Yes

Town of Marion.....Yes
 Town of Mattapoisett.....Yes
 City of New Bedford.....Yes
 Town of Raynham.....Yes
 Town of Seekonk.....Yes
 Town of Somerset.....Yes
 City of Taunton.....Yes
 Town of Wareham.....Yes
 At-Large, Attleboro.....Yes
 At-Large, New Bedford.....Yes
 At-Large, Fall River.....Yes

7. Evacuation Planning Tabletop Exercises Update

Kevin Ham presented that there will be five sub-regional tabletop exercises focused on Critical Transportation, Public Info and Warning, and Operational Coordination. These exercises are meant to shed light on strengths, best practices, and areas of improvement for evacuation of the region. The objective for the tabletop exercises will be to simulate response decisions across three scenarios to demonstrate the ability to apply local and state emergency plans and articulate how those plans inform decision-making, develop public notifications, and coordinate with neighboring communities.

Mr. Ham provided a table with scheduled community tabletop exercises throughout the region that will happen in early July and late August. He provided a scenario example of Taunton’s hazardous materials quandary. Other scenarios will be related to winter storms, hurricane evacuation, and hazardous materials. He mentioned the invites will be sent out soon and welcomed help to share invites among decision-making personnel.

Norm Hills asked when the invites would go out. Kevin said they will go out this week or next. Norm asked who it is going to get sent to. Kevin Ham responded that it will be sent to town administrators, emergency malmanagement, etc.

8. Community Technical Assistance Presentation/Update

Luis DeOliveira presented SRPEDD’s community technical assistance program update. He highlighted that community technical assistance is meant to address local transportation issues that do not need a comprehensive planning study. He highlighted that SRPEDD recieved 8

requests for community technical assistance from Fall River, Acushnet, Middleboro, Westport, Norton, and Taunton. He reported progress on previously completed community technical assistance, including signal warrants analysis to determine if a signal is warranted at an intersection, heavy vehicle exclusion to determine if an exclusion is warranted using MassDOT's amendments to the MUTCD checklist, historical and existing data analysis, and data recommendations only.

He discussed a signal warrant analysis was conducted Hart st at Poole st and Bristol Plymouth High School northern entrance in Taunton, Tremont at South Main and Seipet St and a volume analysis on Tremont St in Carver. A heavy vehicle exclusion was conducted at Crane Ave South and Norton Ave in Taunton. Historical and existing data analysis was conducted on Eastern Ave in Fall River and Head of Westport to analyze traffic trends and provide recommendations. A speed study was conducted on Route 123 from the Town Common to the west of the interstate 495 ramps in Norton.

He continued that some communities only request data and recommendations, for example, a review of ADA Standards for Accessible Design and the Public Rights of Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG) to determine additional accessible parking on South Main St in Middleborough.

He mentioned that SRPEDD had been in the process of reaching out to communities to check on the status of completed community technical assistance requests to determine if improvements have been made. He reported that some recommendations have not been impended due to opposition from the public or other that were not immediate priority.

He listed successful request updates including heavy vehicle exclusion approved for Woodward St in Norton, heavy vehicle exclusion approved for Crane Ave and Norton Ave and all-way stop installed at Washington St with Jackson St and Whittenton St in Taunton. He continued that a signal was installed at the intersection of Acushnet Ave at Peckham Rd in New Bedford and that there is a planned future TIP project along Eastern Ave in Fall River.

Mr. DeOliveira stated that they have recieved scheduled requests for Norton on Route 123 along the school zone, Taunton assistance with Dever Drive heavy vehicles, Berkeley South Main St at Porter St and North Main st at Locust St 12 hour TMC and update to the 2024 Berkley Dighton Bridge, South Mian, Elm, Porter, Padelford and Myricks Analysis. Lastly, Marion Island wharf parking as a status update to the Marion village parking study completed in 2023.

Luis said that the application for community tech is located on the SRPEDD website.

Katherine Nunes said that she will send an update to Luis on Taunton projects relating to SRPEDD's technical assistance program. She emphasized that the community technical assistance program is a cost-saver for the city and that it is an effective program.

9. JTPG Member (Re)Appointment Forms for Upcoming Year

Andrea Duarte-Campos reminded members that emails will be sent out about JTPG appointment forms. She stated that JTPG members will have the option to reappoint themselves or someone new. However, she emphasized that it should be someone who can attend meetings and relay important information from the group. Andrea expressed encouragement of having an alternate to attend meetings and engage with JTPG. She informed the group that forms will need to be signed by the selectboard/city council chair or mayor.

10. Other Business

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

- **Safe Streets for All Grant – FY26 NOFO is Open**
 - Deadline: May 26, 2026
- **SRTS Spring Webinar**
 - Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 12 PM - "New Tools for Schools"
- **MassDOT Districts 2, 3, 4, and 5 – VRU missing crosswalks at state signals at multiple Locations Including North Attleboro – Routes 1 and 1A at Emerald Square Mall North Dwy**
 - Virtual DPH Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 6 p.m.
- **Fall River – Jefferson Street over Sucker Brook Bridge Replacement**
 - Virtual DPH Tuesday, April 21, 2026 at 6 p.m.
- **Acushnet – reconstruction of South Main Street, from Main Street to Alden Rd**
 - PIM, Wednesday May 6, 2026 at 6:30 p.m., Ford Middle School Auditorium, 708 Middle Road, Acushnet, MA 02723

11. Date and Time for Next Meeting

The date and time for the next meeting is May 13, 2026, at 2:00 PM as a hybrid meeting, in which attendees can join via Zoom or in-person at the SRPEDD office.

12. Adjourn

Chair Victoria Alfaro asked for a motion to adjourn which was made by Katherine Nunes and seconded by Norm Hills. Hearing no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 2:51 PM.