

AGENDA ITEM: Minutes, # 3

 SRPEDD Commission Meeting – Draft Minutes
 May 27, 2026
 Remote Meeting via Zoom
Present:**Commissioners:**

S. Elliott, Attleboro	S. Leary, Berkley	K. Estes, Dartmouth	J. Fidalgo, Fairhaven
D. Aguiar, Fall River	N. Durfee, Freetown	L. Carboni, Lakeville	B. Roche, Mansfield
N. Hills, Marion	J. Robbins, Mattap.	M. Clarner, No. Attleb.	T. Torres, Plainville
C. Sullivan, Raynham	S. Cadime, Seekonk	R. Peirce, Somerset	B. Fitzgerald, Taunton
J. Pateakos, Taunton	J. Whitin, Westport	A. Slavin, N.B. A/L	

Guests/Staff:

J. Chicca, Norton	J. Jones, SRPEDD	L. Estrela-Pedro, SRPEDD	K. Porter, SRPEDD
S. Royer, SRPEDD	P. Thomas, Taunton	M. Tinger, SRPEDD	J. Walker, SRPEDD

Absent:

D. Wojnar, Acushnet	V. Alfaro, Acushnet	G. Ayrassian, Attleboro	K. Robinson, Carver
C. Haddad, Dartmouth	J. Carvalho, Dighton	A. Romano, Fairhaven	D. Pettey, Freetown
D. Lodge, Lakeville	R. Burke, Marion	L. Bradley, Middleboro	W. Pike, Middleboro
J. Ponte, New Bedford	M. Borg, No. Attleboro	D. Luciano, Norton	S. Warchal, Norton
C. Desprez, Plainv.	P. Menconi, Raynham	L. Ferreira, Rehoboth	M. Shoemaker, Roch.
S. Smith, Seekonk	W. Raposa, Somerset	J. Hansen, Swansea	C. Parayno, Swansea
J. Faherty, Wareham	C. McDermott, Attl. A/L	G. Saddler, F.R. A/L	T. Lobo, Taunton A/L

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:41 P.M by Chairwoman Clarner.
2. **Approval of Minutes – May 27, 2026:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the May 27, 2026 minutes. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.
3. **Reports:**

- a. **Chair:** No report.

- b. **Executive Director:** Mr. Walker mentioned it was great to see so many new faces with a number of newly appointed Commissioners in attendance, and sad to say goodbye to those completing their terms. He thanked all, both those continuing via reappointment, and those concluding their service, for their dedication and contributions, adding that it has been a pleasure working together over the previous busy year. He noted that at the next meeting there will be a formal swearing-in of new and returning Members, officer elections, and adoption of the FY27 budget, among other items of business, and that a New Commissioner Orientation/Information Session was in the process of being scheduled. He mentioned that the annual session has been very well-received in the past, with detailed information about the agency and its mission, opportunities for Commissioners to become involved, and how best to take advantage of the many planning services that SRPEDD offers. A notice about the Orientation to be held remotely via Zoom will be sent out as soon as the date has been finalized, and that he and fellow staff looked forward to seeing everyone there.

4. Consent Agenda:

- a. **Contracts:** Chairwoman Clarner referred Commissioners to the contract listed in the packet, reading it out for their approval.

Be it resolved that the SRPEDD Commission authorizes the Chairman, Treasurer, Officers, and Executive Director, as appropriate, to negotiate and execute the following contracts:

1. With the town of Wareham to update the Hazard Mitigation Plan for an amount not to exceed \$50,000.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the contract listed above. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Committee Reports:

- a. **Finance and Personnel Committee:** Mr. Hills mentioned the Finance Committee met on May 20, 2026, at SRPEDD's office (88 Broadway, Taunton) and via Zoom. The April 15, 2026, Finance Committee meeting minutes were approved; the Treasurer's Report for April 2026 was received and accepted; and the voucher warrant for expenses in the amount of \$324,419.68 (paper checks plus employee expense reports paid via ACH) was approved.

In addition, the Finance Committee received and accepted the April 2026 month-end general journal entries, and OPEB trust account statement from Charles Schwab for April 2026.

The Personnel Committee also met on May 20, 2026, at 88 Broadway in Taunton and remotely via Zoom. The meeting was called to order in Executive Session and did not return to open session for the following two purposes: pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to litigation, and M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a)(2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Finance and Personnel Committee report. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. **Joint Transportation Planning Group:** Ms. Estrela-Pedro referred the Members to page 9, where minutes from the March 17th MPO meeting, the April 8th JTPG meeting, and the April 20th MPO meeting could be found. She mentioned a few key items of note were discussed such as the draft TIP and related regional projects and budgets, which will be covered in more detail later today by Ms. Jones. She mentioned they have also reviewed amendments to the TIP, driven by project cost increases and the awarding of community transit grants. In addition, there was a presentation on the Community Tech Program, which she will address further in the Unified Work Planning Program presentation. Ms. Estrela-Pedro entertained questions from the Members.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Transportation report. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

- **FFY2027-2031 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):** Ms. Jones provided a brief overview of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). She explained the TIP is a five-year program that allocates federal transportation funding to regional projects. It is both a planning document and a funding mechanism, helping bring federal dollars into the region for major transportation improvements. Projects are grouped into funding categories, with the primary portion being the regional target for roadway and infrastructure projects, overseen by the Joint Transportation

Planning Group (JTPG) and the Southeastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (SMMPO).

Ms. Jones mentioned the TIP is updated annually and aligns with the federal fiscal year (October 1–September 30). The region receives roughly \$31–33 million per year in regional target funding, which supports large-scale transportation projects that are not typically eligible for smaller funding programs. The program covers construction costs, design and right-of-way costs are generally handled by municipalities, though staff are exploring ways to expand eligibility for design funding. She mentioned the TIP is developed in coordination with our Regional Transportation Plan (long-range vision and financial plan), the Unified Planning Work Program (staff work plan), and the Public Participation Plan (public engagement framework). All of these guide how transportation investments are prioritized and implemented.

Ms. Jones indicated the TIP development process runs year-round, with major work from January through May, including project updates, coordination with municipalities and MassDOT, scenario development, public review, and final endorsement. Amendments occur throughout the year as project costs or scopes change. She stated for the current cycle, approximately \$657 million in total transportation investment is projected across the region over five years, including federal highway and transit funding. Key programmed projects include roadway and intersection improvements in communities such as Plainville, Dartmouth, Westport, Mattapoisett, Middleborough, New Bedford, Attleboro, Taunton, and Wareham.

Ms. Jones asked the Members to vote in a poll on how we should prioritize federal transportation funding in the region and where do you think it should go. Mr. Royer set the poll up for Members to vote and Ms. Jones reviewed the results and discussed them further. Ms. Jones entertained questions from the Members and mentioned she would be happy to talk offline as well.

- **FFY2027-Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP):** Ms. Estrela-Pedro reported the UPWP and explained that The UPWP is an annual work plan required of MPOs that outlines how federal highway and transit planning funds will be used. It describes the scope of work, deliverables, responsible parties, timelines, and costs, and runs on the federal fiscal year (October 1–September 30). The current cycle is FY2027. She mentioned the program is guided by federal requirements, including the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and aligns with goals in the Long-Range Transportation Plan. She explained that the UPWP is organized into three main elements in which the first is Planning and program support – includes coordination with communities, public participation and Title VI work, TIP development and amendments, project coordination with MassDOT, and performance monitoring. The second is Data collection and analysis – includes traffic counts, mapping and modeling, pavement data collection, and community technical assistance (e.g., signal studies and safety reviews). Lastly, the third is Transportation planning studies – includes corridor studies, freight planning, safety and intersection analysis, bicycle and pedestrian planning, transit coordination, and updates to the Long-Range Transportation Plan. Ms. Estrela-Pedro stated the FY27 budget is approximately \$1.8 million, distributed across these three elements, with the largest share supporting planning studies. The draft UPWP was released for public comment on May 19, with a minimum 21-day comment period. She mentioned the final endorsement is expected on June 16th and a virtual public meeting will also be held on June 4th at 4:00 PM. Ms. Estrela-Pedro mentioned the document can be found on the SRPEDD website, and staff are available for questions or feedback.

c. Environmental Subcommittee: Ms. Tinger referred Members to page 26 of the packet which includes a program update with upcoming regional training and events, as well as a MEPA project in Taunton. She mentioned on page 27 the March 4th Environmental Committee meeting minutes can be found. Ms. Tinger mentioned key updates include work on regional resilience projects, draft energy siting and permitting guidelines, completion of five Eco One-Stop applications, and continued development of a regional greenhouse gas emissions dashboard.

Ms. Tinger stated that the members also discussed the sewer advisory committee and its overlap with the existing Environmental Committee. Overall, environmental projects are progressing well, including ongoing coordination with Wareham on its hazard mitigation plan. Ms. Tinger concluded her update and entertained questions from the Members.

6. Old Business:

a. Technical Assistance: Mr. Walker referred Commissioners to the monthly update on projects contained in the packet on page 29. He mentioned that he and fellow staff are available to discuss projects as needed via email or by calling the office.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Technical Assistance report. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. New Business: Chairwoman Clarner noted that for some members this would be their final meeting. She thanked departing members for their service, expressed appreciation to staff and Mr. Walker for their work, and welcomed future board members.

Mr. Fitzgerald mentioned that he spoke with Mr. Walker regarding the proposed 501(c)(3) and supports moving forward. He emphasized the importance of avoiding any perception of competition with local or regional economic development efforts and encouraged continued collaboration with municipal and regional partners. Chairwoman Clarner stated that research on the proposal will continue, and findings will be presented transparently to the Commission.

Mr. Walker said staff are in the process conducting follow-up interviews with representatives of fellow MA RPAs with affiliated 501(c)(3)s, with particular regard to Commissioners' earlier posed questions, and that responses will be compiled and shared with the Commission to ensure all concerns are addressed.

Mr. Peirce shared updates on the restoration of the Friends Meeting House in Somerset, noting that the project was recently named to the National Trust for Historic Preservation's list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places and received a \$184,300 grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Chairwoman Clarner congratulated Mr. Peirce and the Town of Somerset on the achievement.

Chairwoman Clarner suggested that the Commission consider sharing information about regional July 4th and 250th anniversary events to increase public awareness across communities. Mr. Slavin noted that many communities face financial constraints and suggested exploring collaborative celebrations to reduce costs while still appropriately commemorating the holiday. Chairwoman Clarner acknowledged these financial challenges.

8. Roundtable: Opportunity for Commissioners to provide updates on local topics, projects or matters of regional interest: None.

9. **Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 P.M. The next Commission meeting will be held on June 24, 2026 at 6:30 PM on Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Saddler, Secretary

Date: 6/24/2026