

Draft Minutes of the Southeastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (SMMPO) Meeting on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at 1:00 PM - Held remotely via Zoom.

The following members were in attendance:

David Mohler-----Representing Phillip Eng, Interim MassDOT Secretary and CEO, ***Chair***
Shaun Handy-----Representing Jonathan Gulliver, MassDOT Highway Div. Administrator
Dan Aguiar-----Representing Paul Coogan, Mayor of Fall River
Jamie Ponte-----Representing Jon Mitche, Mayor of New Bedford
Jay Pateakos-----Representing Shauna O’Connell, Mayor of Taunton
Mallory Arnstein-----Representing Michael Feck, Town of Mansfield
Jennifer Vincent-----Town of Berkley
Sarah Hewins-----Town of Carver
Corey Hebert-----Representing Erik Rousseau, Southeastern Regional Transit Authority

The following Ex-Officio, non-voting members were in attendance:

Rhonda Motley, Federal Highway Administration

The following were also in attendance:

Alan Slavin-----SRPEDD At Large Commissioner, Wareham
Sandra Medeiros-----South Coast Bikeway Alliance
John Cogliano-----Blue Apple Bus Co.
Bonnie Roalsen-----Massachusetts Department of Transportation Safe Routes to School
Derek Shooster-----Massachusetts Department of Transportation
Christina Mendoza-----Massachusetts Department of Transportation
Barbara Lachance-----Massachusetts Department of Transportation
Kian Dana-----Office of Congressman Auchincloss
Caterina Pereira-----Office of Congressman Auchincloss
Albert Araujo-----Member of the Public
Agnes Salinas-----Member of the Public
Lisa Estrela-Pedro-----SRPEDD
Jackie Jones-----SRPEDD
Andrea Duarte-Campos—SRPEDD
Daniel Brogan-----SRPEDD
Sean Hilton-----SRPEDD
Noah Soutier-----SRPEDD

Handouts:

SMMPO Agenda June 16, 2026
SMMPO Draft Meeting Minutes May 19, 2026
FFY2026-2030 TIP Amendment #6
FFY2026-2030 TIP Amendment #7
FFY2026-2030 TIP Adjustment #4

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order and Roll Call-

Chairman Mohler called the SMMPO meeting to order at 1:00 pm. Ms. Andrea Duarte-Campos 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 Fall River-----Yes
City of Taunton-----Yes
Town of Mansfield-----Yes
Town of Berkley-----Yes
SRTA-----Yes

2. Approval of Minutes – May 19, 2026 (Materials Attached and Roll Call Vote Needed)

Chairman Mohler asked if there were any proposed changes and requested a motion to approve the minutes from the May 9, 2026, 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 Fall River-----Yes
City of New Bedford-----Yes
City of Taunton-----Yes
Town of Mansfield-----Abstain
Town of Berkley-----Yes
SRTA-----Yes

THE MOTION PASSED WITH ONE ABSTENTION.

3. Public Comments

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

4. Regional Transit Authorities Report – RTA Updates

Corey Hebert stated that SRTA just underwent its Federal Transit Administration review which went smoothly. He stated that in the coming weeks SRTA will be receiving its final review report. He mentioned that SRTA continues to see ridership growth on both its fixed route and demand response services.

5. FFY2026-2030 TIP Proposed Amendment #7 (Materials Attached, Roll Call Vote Needed to Release to 21-Day Public Comment Period and Conditionally Endorse) 613642 Raynham-Taunton Bridge Replacement, R-02-003=T-01-004 (3M4), South Street East over the Taunton River - Add funding to project

Jackie Jones discussed Amendment 7, which addresses a funding gap for the South Street East bridge replacement project over the Taunton River in Raynham and Taunton. She stated that the project was originally funded through an earmark, but the earmark does not cover the full project cost. Amendment 7 would provide additional statewide funding to fill the gap without affecting regional target funds. Because there is limited other business anticipated in July, the committee was asked to release the amendment for public comment and provide a conditional endorsement. If no adverse comments are received during the public comment period, the amendment will be automatically endorsed when the comment period expires.

The Chair asked if there were any questions on the 2026-2030 TIP Proposed Amendment #7 and seeing none asked for a motion and second to release it to a 21-day public comment period and conditionally endorse in the case of no adverse comments received. The motion was made by Dan Aguiar and seconded by Mallory Arnstein. The Chair asked Ms. Duarte-Campos to read the roll as follows:

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

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. FFY2026-2030 TIP Amendment #6 (Materials Attached & Roll Call Vote Needed to Endorse) 614243 District 5 – VRU Missing Crosswalks at State Signals at Multiple Locations (North Attleborough)

Jackie Jones reminded the group that Amendment 6 had previously been released for a 21-day public comment period. The amendment would add a larger District 5 Vulnerable Road User (VRU) project to the TIP that would install missing crosswalks at multiple state-owned signalized locations. The project must be included in the SMMPO region's TIP because some improvements are located in North Attleborough, including at the Emerald Square driveway on Route 1/South Washington Street. She stated that no public comments were received during the comment period or at the June 4 public meeting. She asked the body to endorse Amendment 6 as proposed.

The Chair asked if there were any questions on the 2026-2030 TIP Proposed Amendment #6 and seeing none asked for a motion and second to endorse it. 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 Fall River-----Yes
City of New Bedford-----Yes
City of Taunton-----Yes
Town of Mansfield-----Yes
Town of Berkley-----Yes
Town of Carver-----Yes
SRTA-----Yes

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. FFY2026-2030 TIP Proposed Adjustment #4 (Materials Attached & Roll Call Vote Needed to Endorse) 609193 Norton – Intersection Improvements at West Main Street (Route 103), North Worcester Street and South Worcester Street – Partial change in funding source

Ms. Jones discussed a minor TIP adjustment involving an existing project, which could be approved at the meeting without a public comment period. She explained that the adjustment would shift approximately \$2.5 million in funding away from regional target funds and replace it with Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) funding, allowing the region to make better use of available funding sources. Ms. Hewins asked how it is determined that the project qualifies as

carbon-reducing, to which Ms. Jones explained that CRP funds may be used for projects consistent with Massachusetts' Carbon Reduction Strategy, including complete streets, roadway reconstruction, and intersection improvements that improve traffic flow, reduce congestion, and demonstrate air quality benefits. She explained that the project had already undergone an analysis through the CMAQ program demonstrating that it provides carbon-reduction benefits, making it eligible for CRP funding. MassDOT proposed the change in part to use available CRP funds before they lapse.

The Chair asked if there were any more questions on the 2026-2030 TIP Proposed Adjustment #4 and seeing none asked for a motion and second to endorse it. The motion was made by Sarah Hewins and seconded by Mallory Arnstein. The Chair asked Ms. Duarte-Campos to read the roll as follows:

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

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. FY2027 Draft Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) (Link & Roll Call Vote Needed to Endorse)

Ms. Estrela-Pedro informed the group that staff received an update regarding language in the transportation planning process certification related to the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program and USDOT projects. Following questions raised during the previous month's TIP vote, both MassDOT and the Federal Highway Administration advised that the language should remain. Staff noted that the DBE program has been significantly restructured, including an interim final rule from USDOT changing how applicants qualify for disadvantaged status, but the language will continue to be included in the SMMPO's planning process self-certification.

Ms. Estrela Pedro reviewed the Federal Fiscal Year 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), covering October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027. She stated that the draft was

released for public comment on May 19, and a public meeting was held on June 4th with no public comments received. MassDOT provided several comments that were incorporated into the document, including clearer maps, wording and acronym updates, revised placeholder dates, an amendment and adjustment log, more detailed breakdowns of PL, MassDOT matching, FHWA, and FTA funding by task, and updates to the budget table. She noted that additional obligated PL funding for air quality and noise monitoring equipment was also added, bringing the total UPWP budget to approximately \$1.9 million. Staff also added descriptions of related environmental coordination work, clarified year-round tasks in the timeline, explained the overhead rate, and identified community beneficiaries for each task. With these revisions incorporated, Ms. Estrela-Pedro asked the body to endorse the FFY 2027 UPWP and authorize the Interim Secretary of Transportation to sign on behalf of the board.

The Chair asked if there were any questions on the FFY 2027 UPWP and seeing none asked for a motion and second to endorse it. The motion was made by Dan Aguiar and seconded by Mallory Arnstein. The Chair asked Ms. Duarte-Campos to read the roll as follows:

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

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. Transportation Funding Priorities Poll

Ms. Jones conducted a virtual poll to identify SMMPO members' regional transportation funding priorities and better understand where members would like transportation dollars directed. She stated that the results are used to inform project evaluation criteria, Regional Transportation Plan priorities, and performance measures, helping ensure that planning efforts reflect regional goals. Funding categories included safety; drainage, stormwater, and water quality; air quality and climate mitigation; reducing automobile dependency through bicycle, pedestrian, and transit improvements; healthy and independent aging; modernized transportation technology; congestion reduction; pavement condition and rideability; economic development; recreation and tourism; and freight. She noted that the exercise had also been

conducted with the SRPEDD Commission and JTPG, that additional suggestions were welcome, and that the MPO may revisit the discussion in September.

10. Other Business

Ms. Estrela-Pedro announced several grant opportunities, upcoming meetings, and transportation-related initiatives. Funding opportunities included the Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects Program for construction, reconstruction, and rehabilitation projects involving federal and tribal lands; the National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration Grant; and the Type 3 Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Competitive Grant Program, all with July 16 deadlines. MassDOT's Speed Limit Signage Program was also extended to July 16 and provides free static speed limit signs, with communities responsible for installation. Staff also announced a design public hearing at Fonseca Elementary School in Fall River on June 23 at 7:00 p.m. Additional updates included SRPEDD's Healthy Living Survey, which will inform the Age-Friendly Mobility Plan and Food Access and Security Plan; MBTA fare discounts and free commuter rail service on Fridays; and an upcoming UMass Transportation Center listening session to gather feedback for the Strategic Highway Safety Plan update.

11. Date and Time for Next Meeting

The Chair announced that the next SMMPO meeting will be on August 18, 2026, at 1:00 pm, held virtually on Zoom if no other needs arise for a July meeting.

12. Adjourn

The Chair asked for a motion and second to adjourn. Mallory Arnstein made the motion and Sarah Hewins seconded. The Chair asked that all in favor say aye. All ayes were heard. The Chair thanked everyone, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:28 PM.