

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

DRAFT Minutes for the JTPG Meeting

Held on Wednesday, August 12, 2026, at 2:00 PM

Held via Zoom in Accordance with Massachusetts Open Meeting Law

The following members and alternates were in attendance:

Byron Holmes.....Town of Berkley
John Woods.....Town of Carver
Paul Duarte.....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
Toby Burr.....Town of Marion
Janice Robbins.....Town of Mattapoisett
Leann Bradley.....Town of Middleborough
Carleton "Toby" Burr.....Town of Marion
Michael Borg.....North Attleborough
Norm Sturtevant.....Town of Raynham
Adam Hart.....City of New Bedford
Amy Messier.....Town of Somerset
Michael Burris.....Town of Westport
Austin Conchinha.....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:

Town of Acushnet
City of Attleboro
Town of Mansfield
Town of Norton
Town of Plainville
Town of Rehoboth
Town of Rochester

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

Also in Attendance:

Christina Mendoza.....MassDOT
Shaun Handy.....MassDOT
Barbara Lachance.....MassDOT
Rhonda Motley.....DOT
Diane Hayes.....
Mary Ellen DeFrias.....GATRA
Sid Kashi.....
Garrett Bauer.....Mattapoisett
Juanita Dean.....
Bonne DeSousa.....Southcoast Bikeway Alliance
Sean Hilton.....SRPEDD
Noah Soutier.....SRPEDD
Lisa Estrela-Pedro.....SRPEDD
Jackie Jones.....SRPEDD
Andrea Duarte-Campos.....SRPEDD
Michael Patneaude.....Taunton DPW

Handouts:

JTPG Meeting Agenda for August 12, 2026
DRAFT June 10, 2026, JTPG Meeting Minutes

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call:

Vice-Chair Gloria Saddler 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:

Byron Holmes.....Town of Berkley
John Woods.....Town of Carver
Paul Duarte.....Town of Dartmouth

Ralph Vitacco.....Town of Dighton
 Joshua Crabb.....Town of Fairhaven
 Dan Aguiar.....City of Fall River
 Franklin Moniz.....Town of Lakeville
 Toby Burr.....Town of Marion
 Janice Robbins.....Town of Mattapoisett
 Leann Bradley.....Town of Middleborough
 Michael Borg.....North Attleborough
 Norm Sturtevant.....Town of Raynham
 Amy Messier.....Town of Somerset
 Michael Burris.....Town of Westport
 Gloria Saddler.....At-Large, Fall River
 Alan Slavin.....At-Large, New Bedford

2. Approval of Minutes – June 10, 2026 (Materials Attached & roll call vote needed)

Vice-Chair Gloria Saddler called for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2026 meeting. The motion was made by Dan Aguiar and seconded by Franklin Moniz. Ms. Duarte-Campos then called the roll:

Town of Carver.....Yes
 Town of Dighton.....Yes
 Town of Fairhaven.....Abstain
 City of Fall River.....Yes
 Town of Lakeville.....Yes
 Town of Mattapoisett.....Yes
 Town of MarionYes
 Town of Mattapoisett.....Yes
 Town of Middleborough.....Abstain
 City of New Bedford.....Yes
 Town of North Attleborough.....Yes
 Town of Raynham.....Abstain
 Town of Somerset.....Yes
 Town of Westport.....Yes
 At-Large, New Bedford.....Yes
 At-Large, Fall River.....Yes

THE MOTION PASSED WITH 5 ABSTENTIONS.

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

Bonne DeSousa is a bike advocate in Mattapoisett with the Southcoast Bikeway Alliance. She thanked MassDOT and SRPEDD for Southeastern Massachusetts Regional Safety Action Plan. She highlighted that it is a giant leap forward for safe street advocacy. She continued that there is a shared responsibility for vehicles, road design, planners, etc. and encouraged SRPEDD to engage municipal leaders towards the contents of the report. She hoped that there would be interactive presentations and conversations across town lines. She urged municipal leaders to get this information out.

Jackie Jones from SRPEDD thanked Bonne and said thank you for highlighting the Safety Action Plan. Ms. Jones said that SRPEDD is happy to provide more education about the document and are available to provide information and presentations on the plan to communities upon request.

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

Mary Ellen DeFrias stated that GATRA is running full service and slowly rolling out Sunday service. She hopes to bring service to the Wareham and Plymouth area in the Fall. She mentioned that the Gateway Link is still running between Brockton, Taunton, and Fall River. She said that they continue to see success on this route.

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

Leeann Bradley from Middleborough asked for an update on behalf of the planning board for Merchants Way at Route 28 traffic light installation. She mentioned that a couple years ago there was pedestrian death of a teenager. She stated that they continue to see people fly by intersection while pedestrians are trying to cross even with improvements to the intersection. They would like to see the project move up at least a year from FFY2029 25% design.

Lisa Estrela-Pedro from SRPEDD responded that this is a priority for the community.

Shaun Handy from MassDOT stated that it is still planned for 2029. Leeann asked if it can be moved up to 2027 or 2028.

Ms. Esrela-Pedro from SRPEDD said it could be difficult to put into the current programmed TIP year. However, depending on design progress then that will dictate which year it is programmed for.

Leeann suggested that it could be moved to FFY2028 TIP.

Diane Hayes from MassDOT had been in contact with the designer. The schedule they are pushing for is hoped for an earlier date than 2029. However, aspects such as right-of-way can delay programming time.

Jackie Jones from SRPEDD highlighted that it is funded through state funding, which means that programming of the project is done at the state level and there is less control over the year it is programmed at the regional level.

Alan Slavin has stated his concern about E-Bikes. Particularly, concern over reprogrammed speeds. He mentioned that all ages are biking at speeds of 20, 30, 40 mph on bike trails, etc. He mentioned that some states are starting to ban e-bikes on public roads.

Gloria added that a business in Taunton was awarded funding for E-bikes. She asked if there is a speed limit for E-bikes.

Jackie mentioned that they are closely watching legislation at the state level for E-bike regulation and shared a resource regarding legislation from MassBike.

Lisa Estrela-Pedro congratulated communities that have recently received state grants (Carver, Wareham, New Bedford, Rochester Land Trust, Westport, AARP Community Challenge Grant (Berkley, New Bedford Southcoast Places for People, Westport Council on Aging), and Unpaved Roads Grant (Acushnet, Fairhaven, North Attleboro, Wareham).

6. Draft Southeast Mass Food Access and Security in Transportation

Noah Soutier from SRPEDD presented the Food Access and Security Plan. He described that the plan began in October 2024 and will be completed in September 2026. Noah discussed data from the greater Boston food bank that showed that 37% of households that within the past year experienced uncertainty about where the next meal would come from and new reporting that shows that this number has only grown in 2026. Noah Soutier provided an overview of health and socioeconomic elements to food access and explained that individuals were more likely to have chronic conditions or skipping medical visits.

He mentioned that there are federal and state programs to support people in accessing food. The Healthy Incentive program provides reimbursement when buying directly from farms for healthy fresh foods. He mentioned that people may not be aware that this program exists and highlighted the utilization rate by county.

He described food access in relation to transit, agricultural preservation, distribution of food access points (critical destinations map), the food scoring matrix (how vulnerable a population may be for accessing food location points), map of scores for census tracts, and an overview of the healthy living survey, food pantry/free meal service location map, and recommendations.

Vice-Chair Gloria Saddler called for a motion to recommend the plan to the SMMPO for public comment. The motion was made by Alan Salvin and seconded by John Woods. Ms. Duarte-Campos then called the roll:

Town of Berkley.....no answer
 Town of Carver.....Yes
 Town of Dartmouth.....Yes
 Town of Fairhaven.....Yes
 Town of Dighton.....Yes
 City of Fall River.....Yes
 Town of Lakeville.....Yes
 Town of Mattapoisett.....Yes
 Town of MarionYes
 Town of Middleborough.....Yes
 North Attleborough.....Yes
 Town of Raynham.....Yes
 Town of Somerset.....Yes
 Town of Westport.....Yes
 At-Large, Attleboro.....Yes
 At-Large, Fall River.....Yes
 At-Large, New Bedford.....Yes

THE MOTION PASSED.

7. Draft Southeast Mass Congestion Management Process and Plan

Sean Hilton from SRPEDD provided an update on the Southeast Mass Congestion Management Process and Plan. He provided an overview of the plan's contents such as regional objectives, congestion management network, analyses, strategies for congestion management, planned congestion improvement projects, and recommendations. He further described the analyses portion of the plan as it relates to SRPEDD region roadways. The plan relies on the data for the Regional Integrated Transportation Information System (RITIS) which is used to monitor congestion. Also, SRPEDD data collected from turning movement counts, automated traffic recorders, and eco counters (counts of bike and pedestrian activity). He provided an overview of freight travel time reliability, interstate level of travel time reliability, bottleneck rankings, bottleneck ranking table 2025, and next steps.

Vice-Chair Gloria Saddler called for a motion to recommend the plan to the SMMPO for public comment. The motion was made by Alan Salvin and seconded by John Woods. Ms. Duarte-Campos then called the roll:

Town of Carver.....Yes
Town of Dartmouth.....Yes
Town of Fairhaven.....Yes
Town of Dighton.....Yes
City of Fall River.....no answer
Town of Lakeville.....Yes
Town of Mattapoisett.....Yes
Town of MarionYes
Town of Middleborough.....Yes
North Attleborough.....Yes
City of New Bedford.....Yes
Town of Raynham.....Yes
Town of Somerset.....Yes
Town of Westport.....Yes
At-Large, Attleboro.....Yes
At-Large, Fall River.....Yes
At-Large, New Bedford.....Yes

THE MOTION PASSED.

8. Other Business

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

Conferences/Trainings/Webinars

- Baystate – Baystate Roads UMTC
- **Design Public Hearings**
 - New Bedford – Intersection Improvements at Mount Pleasant and Nash Road
 - Tuesday, August 25, 2026
 - New Bedford – Accessibility Improvements, Bicycle and Pedestrian Ramp Construction, Route 6 (WB) to MacArthur Drive
 - Thursday, September 10, 2026, at 6PM
 - Taunton – Bridge Preservation, Plain Street Bridge over the Taunton River
 - Tuesday, September 29, 2026, at 6PM

9. Date and Time for Next Meeting

The date and time for the next meeting is September 9, 2026, at 2:00 PM as a hybrid meeting, in which attendees can join via Zoom or in-person at the SRPEDD office.

10. Adjourn

Vice-Chair Gloria Saddler asked for a motion to adjourn. Hearing no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 2:56 PM.