

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

DRAFT Minutes for the JTPG Meeting

Held on Wednesday, September 9, 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
Tim Barber.....Town of Dartmouth
Ralph Vitacco.....Town of Dighton
Toby Burr.....Town of Marion
Josh Reinke.....Town of Mansfield
Janice Robbins.....Town of Mattapoisett
Garrett Bauer.....Town of Mattapoisett
Leann Bradley.....Town of Middleborough
William O'Rourke.....Town of Plainville
Amy Messier.....Town of Somerset
Norm Sturtevant.....Town of Raynham
Joshua Crabb.....Town of Fairhaven
Nancy Durfee.....Town of Freetown
David Cabral.....Town of Seekonk
Dan Aguiar.....City of Fall River
Franklin Moniz.....Town of Lakeville
Michael Burris.....Town of Westport
Manuel Washburn.....City of New Bedford
Adam Hart.....City of New Bedford
Alan Slavin.....At-Large, New Bedford

The following members/alternates were NOT in attendance:

Town of Acushnet
City of Attleboro
Town of North Attleboro
Town of Norton
Town of Rehoboth

Town of Rochester
Town of Swansea
City of Taunton
Town of Wareham
At-Large, Taunton
At-Large, Fall River

Also in Attendance:

Shaun Handy.....MassDOT
Barbara Lachance.....MassDOT
Diane Hayes.....MassDOT
Will Gardner.....Southcoast Places for People
Bonnie Roalsen.....Safe Routes to School
Barbara Soby.....
Eldric Abreu.....SEMAP
Phil Viveiros.....Bowman
Susan Mann.....
Jennifer Francis.....Marion Resident
Michael Secor.....
Mary Ellen DeFrias.....GATRA
Jennifer Chaves.....SRPEDD
Maya Couto.....SRPEDD
Andrea Duarte-Campos.....SRPEDD
Sean Hilton.....SRPEDD
Jon Gray.....SRPEDD
Dan Brogan.....SRPEDD
Sisar Botelho.....SRPEDD
Lisa Estrela-Pedro.....SRPEDD

Handouts:

JTPG Meeting Agenda for September 9, 2026
DRAFT August 12, 2026, JTPG Meeting Minutes
SMMPO TIP Admin Modification Report

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call:

Alan Slavin 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
Tim Barber Town of Dartmouth
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
Toby Burr.....Town of Marion
Janice Robbins.....Town of Mattapoisett
Manuel Washburn.....City of New Bedford
Norm Sturtevant.....Town of Raynham
David Cabral.....Town of Seekonk
Amy Messier.....Town of Somerset
Ralph Vitacco.....Town of Dighton
Alan Slavin.....At-Large, New Bedford

2. Approval of Minutes – August 12, 2026 (Materials Attached & roll call vote needed)

Alan Slavin called for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2026, meeting. The motion was made by Dan Aguiar and seconded by John Woods. Ms. Duarte-Campos then called the roll:

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.....Yes
 Town of Marion Yes
 Town of Middleborough.....Yes
 City of New Bedford.....Yes
 Town of Raynham.....Yes
 Town of Seekonk.....Abstain
 Town of Somerset.....Yes
 At-Large, New Bedford.....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

Mary Ellen DeFrias stated that the Wareham GATRA facility is complete. Service will be starting out of the facility on September 30th. She aims to work with the Councils on Aging to make it easier for their vehicles to be serviced at the facility. She mentioned that there is still strong ridership on the Gateway Link route, over 5000 people a month and that they are looking for funding to expand service to Saturday.

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

No comments were offered.

6. FFY2026-2030 TIP Administrative Modification #1 (Materials Attached, No Vote Needed)

Jackie Jones from SRPEDD provided an overview of administrative modifications to the following:

- RTD0010676 – GATRA Miscellaneous Support Equipment – Change to match amount
- T00102 – GATRA Associated Capital Items Bus – Change to match amount
- GATRA011969 GATRA East Maintenance Facility – Change to match amount

7. Establishment of Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Discussion

Jon Gray from SRPEDD announced that SRPEDD is looking to put together a Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. He explained the purpose of the group is to bring together

people from around the region who are interested in bicycle and pedestrian planning to support better connectivity and collaboration. The group is open to everyone, not just planning professionals. He explained that the application is simple and short. He pointed people towards the SRPEDD webpage for more advisory committee information and asked members to share with their departments. More information on the BPAC can be found by following this link - <https://srpedd.org/news/srpedd-seeking-applicants-for-new-bicycle-and-pedestrian-advisory-committee/>

Alan Slavin asked if Jon would reach out directly to the 27 communities. Jon responded that he would.

8. Southeast Mass Age-Friendly Mobility Plan Presentation

Andrea Duarte-Campos from SRPEDD provided an overview of the Southeast Massachusetts Age-Friendly Mobility Plan. She explained that older adults make up 18% of the population in our region. The age group of people 65 and over are expected to grow more than any other age group in the region. She explained that this means transportation access to everyday activities and necessities should meet the demand of those who are aging. She showed a map depicting different elements that are important to mobility, including highest concentrations of older adults in the region, areas where households have zero vehicle access, transit stops, senior housing developments, Councils on Aging, shared-use paths, etc. She emphasized the importance of understanding these variables as we plan for providing transportation access to older adults.

She highlighted additional maps talking about regional areas with high rates of diabetes, high cholesterol, anxiety, etc. This provides context for increased need for medical transportation and active transportation options (walking, biking, etc.) which aids in disease prevention. She noted there are varying levels of access to programs and transportation options that support an age-friendly community across the region. She further explained that the plan acts as a needs and strengths assessment and roadmap for SRPEDD to work on relevant goals with community partners.

Alan Slavin commented that New Bedford has had an age-friendly community for a while. Wareham has reached out to New Bedford for information on how to become an age-friendly community. He expressed the importance of working together, maybe areas where 2 or 3 communities can work together for funds. He further identified that local bodies need more assistance and that it is an important area. Ms. Duarte-Campos agreed that it is a great point and that during various partner meetings staff emphasized the importance of municipal

partnerships in seeking funds for joint and regionalized programs. SRPEDD is hoping to continue working with towns toward age-friendly goals, supporting communities that are already part of the AARP age-friendly network and those not yet there.

She continued to explain the methods of the study which include GIS mapping, AARP livability scores, and public engagement. She discussed different strengths and needs among the region's communities. She concluded by describing highlights of the 6 goals and 32 action items identified for SRPEDD to support age-friendly mobility improvements in local communities and a link to the interactive map showing local features important to helping older adults age independently and healthily.

Mary Ellen DeFrias asked if SRPEDD staff reached out to GATRA staff about the draft Plan. Ms. Duarte-Campos responded that SRPEDD had reached out to both RTAs (GATRA and SRTA) and met with SRTA, but GATRA staff were not available. Ms. DeFrias asked if corrections could be made to which Ms. Duarte-Campos responded that corrections can be made. Ms. DeFrias expressed the importance of Dial-a-Ride, stating that running fixed route service all over Southeastern Massachusetts would be a waste of resources. Ms. DeFrias expressed concern with the plan being made public without meeting. Ms. Duarte-Campos stated that SRPEDD let GATRA know in advance that the plan was going to be going out in September. Ms. Duarte-Campos also expressed that the plan does not imply a need for fixed route service spanning the entire region. Ms. DeFrias stated that GATRA staff have concerns with the data, which is why GATRA staff had backed off and would have liked more time before the plan went out. Ms. Duarte-Campos asked Ms. DeFrias to share specific examples, concerns, and information with SRPEDD and stated that SRPEDD would be happy to meet and have a conversation.

Lisa Estrela-Pedro added that the plan is in draft and that SRPEDD will reach out again to coordinate a meeting in the short-term so the plan may go out for a public comment period. Alan Slavin commented that it would be good for both parties to sit down over the next few weeks and find areas to resolve issues to which Ms. Duarte agreed.

9. Mansfield Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Phase I Update

Jon Gray from SRPEDD provided an overview of the Mansfield Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Phase I report. He explained that this plan is a comprehensive look at Mansfield's gaps and issues relating to cycling and walking, and which connections can be made to improve this network along sidewalks, natural surface trails, etc. The phase 1 report focuses mostly on existing infrastructure conditions, baseline data from crash reports, feedback from public engagement, and major needs and opportunities. He continued with a general overview of issues that were brought up during public engagement regarding cycling or walking in

Mansfield and common concerns with sidewalks in different areas. He mentioned the use of Eco Counters as an important data collection tool to capture bicyclists and walkers along different sidewalks/shared use paths. He shared maps of open space in Mansfield, places without sidewalks, natural surface trails, and level of stress while biking on Mansfield roads. The final plan is anticipated for Fall 2027.

10. Evacuation Planning Tabletop Exercises Update

Sean from SRPEDD provided an overview of the evacuation planning tabletop exercises that were conducted with different communities. The goal of the exercises is to find gaps in plans, roles, and coordination before a real storm, hurricane, or hazardous materials incidences. The exercise tested communities on critical transportation (e.g. road closures, detours, etc.), public information and warnings, and operational coordination. The strengths identified through the exercises were that there were strong relationships with knowing which people to call, discussing shared priorities, and coordinating with known and trusted people. Sean continued that people often had knowledge of public alert systems and existing mutual aid agreements. The weaknesses identified through the exercises were missing documented triggers on when to act, clearly defined decision-making authority, written and repeatable coordination procedures. Sean concluded by saying that an After Action Report was in the process of being created to summarize exercise outcomes and provide recommendations for improvements. A regional authority and responsibility matrix to name who is responsible for what decisions for different emergency situations will be included in the report.

11. Other Business

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

Conferences/Trainings/Webinars

- [MassDOT – 2026 Moving Together Conference](#)
 - Tuesday, October 27, 2026 at Sheraton Boston Hotel

Design Public Hearings

- [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

Funding Opportunities

- [SRTS Signs and Lines Program](#) – Closes Friday September 25, 2026

- Provides design services and up to \$14,000 in construction funding to a selected municipality for a low-cost infrastructure project around a public elementary, middle, or high school.
- [SRTS Infrastructure Project Funding Program](#) – Closes Friday October 16, 2026
- [SRTA Bike Rack Grant](#) – Opens Friday October 20, 2026 / Closes Friday November 13, 2026
- [Community Transit Grant Program](#) – Closes Friday October 30, 2026
 - Awards funds to help meet their transportation and mobility needs of older adults and people with disabilities.
 - Transit authorities, Councils on Aging, municipalities, non-profit organizations, and private operators of public transit (shared ride) services can apply.

Other

- MassDOT Bicycle Facility Maintenance Study Survey
 - MassDOT would like to better understand current maintenance practices, responsibilities, equipment capabilities, and potential for bicycle infrastructure across the state.
- SRPEDD Annual Meeting
 - Scheduled for Wednesday September 23, 2026 from 5:30PM to 8:30 PM at the Fall River Country Club.

12. Date and Time for Next Meeting

The date and time for the next meeting is October 14, 2026, at 2:00 PM as a hybrid meeting, in which attendees can join via Zoom or in-person at the SRPEDD office.

13. Adjourn

Alan Slavin asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Josh Reinke and seconded by John Woods. Hearing no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 3:31 PM.