

OLD COLONY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

Minutes of the Old Colony MPO Virtual Meeting, February 20, 2024 - 10:00 A.M., Held Via Zoom

Roll Call/Attendance

<u>Signatories/Designees</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Derek Krevat	Monica Tibbits-Nutt, Secretary, MassDOT	Present
Shaun Handy	Jonathan Gulliver, Administrator, MassDOT Highway Division	Present
Mayor Robert Sullivan	City of Brockton	Absent
Lee Hartmann	Richard Quintal, Jr., Town of Plymouth	Present
Jeffrey Ryan	Town Of West Bridgewater - Representing Avon, East Bridgewater, Halifax, Hanover, Hanson, Kingston, Plympton, and West Bridgewater	Absent
Daniel Salvucci	Town Of Whitman - Representing Abington, Bridgewater, Duxbury, Easton, Pembroke, Stoughton, And Whitman	Present
Michael Lambert	Brockton Area Transit (BAT)	Absent
Rebecca Coletta	Old Colony Planning Council	Present

Also Present

Bridget Plouffe	Office of State Representative Gerard Cassidy
Al DeGirolamo	Office of State Senator Michael Brady
Representative Rita Mendes	11th Plymouth District
Noreen O'Toole	Old Colony JTC Chairperson & Whitman
Adelene Ellenberg	
Richard Jordan	Avon
Kelly Forrester	Brockton Area Transit (BAT)
Deputy Chief Joseph DePasquale	Brockton Fire Department
David Nolan	Cape Cod Commission
Jim Fitzgerald	Environmental Partners
Mary Ellen DeFrias	Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit Authority (GATRA)
Valerie Massard	Kingston
Steve Findlen	Howard Stein Hudson
Derek Shooster	MassDOT
Andrew Wang	MassDOT
Barbara Lachance	MassDOT District 5
Charles Kilmer	Old Colony Planning Council
Mary Waldron	Old Colony Planning Council
Bill McNulty	Old Colony Planning Council
Kyle Mowatt	Old Colony Planning Council
Ray Guarino	Old Colony Planning Council
Shawn Bailey	Old Colony Planning Council
Dan McCready	WATD 95.9 Radio

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1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chairperson Derek Krevat called the meeting to order at 10:03 A.M. Charles Kilmer read the meeting accessibility statement and the Title VI Notice of Protection Statement. Roll call was then conducted by Charles Kilmer.

2. Public Comments

Mary Waldron acknowledged that State Representative Rita Mendes is in attendance.

3. Minutes of the January 16, 2024 Meeting

A motion to approve the draft minutes of the January 16, 2024 meeting was made by Dan Salvucci and seconded by Rebecca Coletta. Signatories/ Designees voted as follows:

Derek Krevat	Aye
Shaun Handy	Aye
Lee Hartmann	Aye
Daniel Salvucci	Aye
Rebecca Coletta	Aye

The motion passed.

4. MassDOT Report

Derek Krevat reported on the following items:

- Secretary Tibbits-Nutt is working to attend and Chair MPO meeting over the next few months
- Full Federal Certification Review of the Old Colony MPO was completed by federal partners at Federal Highway and Federal Transit. This was a successful review with a lot of great work and recognitions
- With the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), there have been many successful federal funding discretionary grant applications and awards happening in the region. It is great to hear city, towns, and OCPC taking advantage of those grants
- Secretary Tibbits-Nutt and team are in process of establishing new visions and goals for transportation in the future. Excited to have that new direction and vision for the agency going forward

5. Brockton Area Transit Authority (BAT) Report

There was no BAT report at this time.

6. Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit Authority Report

Mary Ellen DeFrias reported on the following items:

- Full Sunday service has rolled out on all routes
- Completed move from Plymouth facility to temporary Wareham location while building the new Wareham facility
- Excited to welcome Halifax as GATRA's newest community. GATRA now has 30 communities that it now represents
- Continue to watch ridership numbers rebound

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7. Old Colony Region Updates and Priorities Discussion

- Discussion of Regional Needs and Priorities
- 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Status of Projects

Charles Kilmer highlighted regional needs and priorities in regard to commuter rail. They are as follows:

1. Address Old Colony Main Line Bottlenecks by implementing double tracking along Old Colony Main Line. Establish environmental Justice commuter rail corridor. Funding in the FFY 2024-2028 MBTA CIP to initiate some planning work on the significant bottlenecks existing on the Old Colony main line in Braintree, Quincy, and Boston. Nests under line item P0940 Rail Transportation - Early Action Items
2. Re-establish commuter rail service to Plymouth Station. Service began in September 1997, but was stopped in April 2021. The station would complement local and regional efforts to provide economic stability, support tourism, and foster growth and access to the entire area
3. Minimize service disruptions and maintain levels of service on Old Colony Middleborough/Lakeville Line stations as South Coast Rail Phase 1 begins revenue service later this year

Dan Salvucci stated that the next MBTA Advisory Board Meeting will be held on March 12, 2024.

The 2024 UPWP Status of Projects is to be re-scheduled to a future meeting.

8. FFY 2024-2028 Old Colony Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Adjustments and/ or Amendments

- Amendment 2 (Community Transit Grants – BAT, Bridgewater, AAA, and SSCAC Projects) – Public Comments and Potential Endorsement

Bill McNulty stated that Amendment 2 was released to a 21-day Public Review and Comment Period at the January 16, 2024 MPO meeting.

Amendment 2 includes the following changes to FFY 2024 - Transit:

1. BROCKTON AREA TRANSIT (BAT) ROCKLAND MICROTRANSIT SERVICE
 - Adding Project
 - State Fiscal Year 2024 Community Transit Grant Mobility Assistance Program
 - Total Project Cost is \$322,500
2. BROCKTON AREA TRANSIT (BAT) BEYOND BROCKTON ADA CORRIDOR - AVON AND STOUGHTON
 - Adding Project
 - State Fiscal Year 2024 Community Transit Grant Mobility Assistance Program
 - Award Amount: \$50,000
 - Total Project Cost with Match is \$100,000
3. TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER - BRIDGEWATER CARES TRANSIT
 - Adding Project
 - State Fiscal Year 2024 Community Transit Grant Mobility Assistance Program
 - Total Project Cost is \$288,658
4. OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL - AREA AGENCY ON AGING ELDER, DISABLED, AND CAREGIVER VOLUNTEER & ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION
 - Adding Project
 - State Fiscal Year 2024 Community Transit Grant Mobility Assistance Program
 - Award Amount is \$30,000

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- Total Project Cost with Match is \$60,000

5. SOUTH SHORE COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL - TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM OPERATING ASSISTANCE

- Adding Project
- State Fiscal Year 2024 Community Transit Grant Mobility Assistance Program
- Total Project Cost is \$150,000

Comments received are as follows:

- Michael Lambert, BAT - Thanked MassDOT for the awards to Brockton Area Transit and their continued investment in the Community Transit Grant Program
- Old Colony Planning Council - The Old Colony Planning Council reviewed and approved Amendment 2 as presented by OCPC Staff
- Old Colony Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) - The Old Colony JTC reviewed and approved Amendment 2 as presented by OCPC Staff

A motion to endorse Amendment 2 was made by Dan Salvucci and seconded by Lee Hartmann. Signatories/ Designees voted as follows:

Derek Krevat	Aye
Shaun Handy	Aye
Lee Hartmann	Aye
Daniel Salvucci	Aye
Rebecca Coletta	Aye

The motion passed as presented.

9. FFY 2025-2029 Old Colony Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development

- **Schedule**
- **Results of TIP Readiness Days**

Bill McNulty provided an overview of the FFY 2025-2029 TIP Development schedule and the results of TIP Readiness Day.

Development Timeline

Date	Progress / Milestone
Underway	Review of Status of Projects Consultations with Project Proponents and MassDOT
February 6-8, 2024	TIP Readiness Days
March 19, 2024	Old Colony MPO Reviews Scenarios and Potentially Selects Preferred Set of Projects
April 16, 2024	Old Colony MPO Reviews Draft FFY 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Potentially Releases to 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period
May 21, 2024	Old Colony MPO Reviews Results of 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period, and Potentially Endorses Old Colony FFY 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program

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Old Colony Planning Council participated with MassDOT in TIP Readiness Days on February 6, 2024 to review the current status of programmed projects in the FFY 2024 - 2028 Transportation Improvement Program, along with reviewing new projects for potential programming in the FFY 2025-2029 TIP.

The following summarizes the projects with risks/concerns that were brought up during TIP Readiness Day:

Programmed Year	Project	TIP Readiness Day Recommendation	Risks/Concerns
2024	Brockton - Intersection Improvements at Centre Street (123) and Plymouth Street	2025	High risk due to municipal ROW and Endangered Species (bats)
2025	Brockton - Intersection Improvements at Lyman Street/Grove Street/Summer Street & Replacement of Grove Street Bridge	2025	Some concerns about City's capacity on ROW delivery in 2025 with other priority project (609052); please coordinate with City on preferred years
2025	Plymouth - Town Brook Stream Restoration: Deep Water Culvert Replacement	2025	Defer to Plymouth on recommended program year
2027	Hanson - Corridor Improvements on Route 14 (Maquan Street), from the Pembroke T.L. to Indian Head Street and Related Work	2028	A lot of ROW and permitting concerns; design needs to progress, old plans (2020); busy designer
2027	Duxbury - Bridge Replacement, D-14-003 (438), Powder Point Avenue over Duxbury Bay	2027	Complex permitting and utility impacts may be controversial around tree removal (i.e. lengthier process). Project Manager to coordinate with designer
2028	Abington - Intersection Improvements at Route 18 (Bedford Street) and Route 123 (Brockton Avenue)	2028	New project manager, and project is straightforward. If it makes progress, might advance sooner - evaluate next year

10. Administrative Matters, Other Business, and Date and Time of Next Meeting(s)

Charles Kilmer reported on the following items:

- Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant Program - Division of Ecological Restoration (DER), Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game
- 2023 Equity Action Plan Release and Upcoming Webinar - February 26, 2024
- Federal Funds & Infrastructure Office Information
- 2024 MassDOT Transportation Innovation Conference - 4/30/24 & 5/1/24 - DCU Center, Worcester
- Ray Guarino's Retirement Party - March 7, 2024 - After JTC Meeting, at OCPC

Ray Guarino appreciated working with everyone throughout the years. Ray Guarino then thanked the federal and state partners.

Date and Time of Next Old Colony MPO Virtual Meeting(s)

The Old Colony MPO members are respectfully requested to confirm the dates and times of their next virtual meeting(s).

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2024

- February 20, 2024 at 10 AM
- March 19, 2024 at 10 AM
- April 16, 2024 at 10 AM
- May 21, 2024 at 10 AM
- June 18, 2024 at 10 AM
- July 16, 2024 at 10 AM
- August 20, 2024 at 10 AM
- September 17, 2024 at 10 AM
- October 15, 2024 at 10 AM
- November 19, 2024 at 10 AM
- December 17, 2024 at 10 AM

Charles Kilmer recognized Adelene Ellenberg in the chat, who had asked that if the Secretary is not present, then how are you taking minutes, and is there a violation of open meeting law. Charles Kilmer stated that Derek Krevat of MassDOT is representing Secretary Monica Tibbits-Nutt at today's meeting. There are eight MPO Signatories. If a signatory is not able to attend, they may send a representative or designee to represent said signatory.

Lee Hartmann stated that minutes are being recorded by OCPC staff. Charles Kilmer stated that the minutes are posted on the OCPC Website. Rebecca Coletta also noted that this meeting is recorded.

11. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Dan Salvucci and seconded by Rebecca Coletta. Signatories/ Designees voted as follows:

Derek Krevat	Aye
Shaun Handy	Aye
Lee Hartmann	Aye
Daniel Salvucci	Aye
Rebecca Coletta	Aye

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Mowatt

Kyle Mowatt, Senior Transportation Planner

List of Documents for the February 20, 2024 Old Colony MPO Meeting

- Minutes of January 16, 2024, Old Colony MPO Meeting
- Staff Report for February 20, 2024 Old Colony MPO Meeting Agenda Items