

**Joint Transportation Planning Group**  
Minutes of the Meeting held on November 14, 2007

**In attendance were the following:**

Lee Azinheira, Mansfield-Chairman	Mark Slugarz, Taunton
Ray Andrews, Mattapoissett	Donna Kulpa, Dighton
Roger Stolte, Raynham	Michael Maglio, Plainville
Bill Roth, Fairhaven	Bob Carney, Dartmouth
Greg Lucini, Berkley	Rachel Bain, EOT/Planning
Bob Lamoureux, Seekonk	David Cabral, Seekonk
Tim Kochan, MHD-District 5	Michael Chong, FHWA
Tom Fitzgerald, Somerset	Skip Skuglong, GPI
Robert Patneau, GPI	Moe Pukulis, Swansea
Christopher Peck, Lakeville	Brian Leatherman, Attleboro
Michael Botelho, Mattapoissett	Roland Hebert, SRPEDD
Jim Hadfield, SRPEDD	Lisa Estrela-Pedro, SRPEDD
Lilia Cabral, SRPEDD	Paul Mission, SRPEDD
Jennifer Chaves, SRPEDD	Adam Recchia, SRPEDD
Louise Daley, SRPEDD	Stacy Sousa, SRPEDD

- 1. Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order at 1:00pm by Chairman Lee Azinheira.
- 2. Approval of the Minutes** - A motion was made to approve the minutes of the JTPG meeting held on October 10, 2007. The motion was seconded and approved **UNANIMOUSLY**.
- 3. Human Services Transportation Plan**  
Louise Daley discussed the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan. She asked the JTPG to review the plan, and if they have any information that needs to be added to the plan to inform SRPEDD so we can add it into the plan. The Human Service Transportation Plan discusses how transit providers can apply for Jobs Access/Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedoms funding, which are two federal transit funding programs. The Coordinated Plan identifies transportation providers, transit gaps in the region, helps develop criteria for evaluating proposals and prioritizes what gaps we would like to see filled which are listed in the survey that was handed out to the JTPG. The deadline to apply for the funding in this plan is December 30<sup>th</sup>. Applications should be submitted to SRPEDD. Discussion then ensued.
- 4. Discussion of Freight Needs**  
Adam Recchia gave a presentation on the Freight Needs in our region and a study potentially being done about Freight Movement in our region. In 2004 SRPEDD began a truck movement study that was not completed. SRPEDD would like to build on this study and complete it. Issues regarding air, rail, truck and sea freight movement were discussed, including short sea shipping and how to use a \$5 million earmark for Bristol Country Freight Rail improvements. Interest in consolidating solid waste shipments onto rail was expressed by several members. Discussion then ensued.

## **5. Discussion of I-495 Corridor Study**

Roland Hebert discussed the I-495 Corridor. He mentioned that the corridor may need to be widened to 3 lanes in each direction in order to accommodate traffic volume growth projected by SRPEDD's travel demand model. The transportation staff at SRPEDD will be studying the corridor from Route 24 in Raynham to Route 25 in Wareham, including all of its interchanges. Roland stated that a task force will be formed to discuss further information about the I-495 Corridor, and would like the JTPG to be involved. Discussion then ensued regarding whether or not the Route 24 interchange would be included in the study.

## **6. Update of TIP Issues & Bridge Funding**

Roland stated that he made an administrative change to the transit section of TIP: a minor change to the GATRA financial page on Carryover funds.

Roland stated there was a meeting a few weeks back with state, region and federal officials discussing financial issues of the State TIP with a focus on bridges. He mentioned that at this meeting the Federal Highway Administration was unhappy about the amount of non-target money that the state is spending on bridges. FHWA would like the state to increase spending to keep up with its bridge repairs.

Roland stated that there have been no TIP project advertisements this winter due to the state not having any bond money left. Responding to a question, Roland assured the delegate from Dighton that the Berkley/Dighton Bridge should still be advertised as proposed in the TIP.

## **7. Report on Bikeway Conference**

Bill Roth gave a report on the Bikeway Conference he attended at UMASS Dartmouth, co-sponsored with SRPEDD. One issue that Bill Roth was concerned about is that SRTA does not have bike racks in front of their buses. Roland stated that he felt that the reasoning for not having bike racks is because the operator at Union Street Bus Company does not want them. SRTA has \$31,000 in FTA enhancement money which would possibly buy about 31 new bike racks at about \$1,000 per bike rack. Donna Kulpa made a motion to send a letter to the SRTA Advisory Board about putting bike racks on their buses. The motion was seconded and approved **UNANIMOUSLY**.

## **8. Safe Route to School**

Adam Recchia stated that Safe Routes to School is a program that funds both educational and infrastructure projects that encourage elementary school children to walk or bicycle to school. If a school district wants to participate in the program, they need to fill out a Participation Request Form and send it to MASSRIDES. The school is then provided with educational materials and becomes eligible eventually for infrastructure projects that would improve biking and walking to their school.

## **9. Other Business**

Paul Mission stated that there is a new program called Disaster Debris Mitigation Management Planning. This plan would make it so that DEP/MEMA would be involved

with helping communities' dispose of their debris properly and where to dispose of the debris if a disaster were to happen in our region or others.

**10. Date, Time, Location of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be January 9, 2008 at 2:00pm at SRPEDD in Taunton.