TESTIMONY OF THE SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
ON THE FY 2014-2018 CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN

February 10, 2014

We commend MassDOT for their effort in producing the Capital Investment Plan for the next five years. It is a comprehensive report and a more transparent look at the state’s spending plans into the future. As the staff to the MPO in Southeastern Massachusetts, we at SRPEDD look forward to our continuing partnership with MassDOT in planning and programming projects and are pleased that the CIP includes all of the Transportation Improvement Program projects and many of the long range projects contained in our Regional Transportation Plan.

Some specific points that we would like to comment upon:

1. CHAPTER 90: We support the level of Chapter 90 funds being increased to $300 million/year as opposed to the $200 million level proposed in the plan. The difference would mean over $9 million additional funds for the SRPEDD region. This would be money well spent by the Commonwealth. The overall condition of our region’s road network is declining. SRPEDD’s 2012 Regional Transportation Plan reported a decrease in excellent and good pavement conditions on federal aid eligible roadways of 20%, indicating that pavement conditions are deteriorating at a faster rate than current maintenance programs and funding levels can adequately maintain. The Chapter 90 program is a vital tool for communities to repair and maintain the transportation network, but it continues to be underfunded. Several studies have shown that maintaining pavement in the early part of its useful life is far more cost effective than repairing a road that has been allowed to deteriorate. Unfortunately with the rising cost of materials and the many maintenance demands that communities face, most communities cannot afford to maintain their pavement conditions and have to make tough choices about repairing already deteriorated roadways. If this trend continues, overall pavement conditions will continue to deteriorate to a point where communities will not able to readily repair them. We believe that this investment to enable effective local management could provide significant long term savings to the Commonwealth and the cities and towns.

2. SOUTH COAST RAIL: We are pleased with the commitment shown to South Coast Rail by earmarking $254 million for early action items over the five years. This is a critical project for the region that will have enormous transportation benefits by providing an alternative to the very congested Route 24 and taking thousands of cars off the road. Additional benefits include the environmental improvements realized through reduced air emissions and mitigation to correct existing environmental issues, and economic benefits of 3500-3800 additional jobs plus investment in three Gateway Cities that will stimulate new development around the train stations and beyond.

3. SHARED USE PATHS: We believe that our region is not receiving its fair share of the $130 million earmarked for Bicycle and Pedestrian improvements with only $4.4 million (3.4%) earmarked for
2 local projects in Fall River and Mattapoisett. There are several additional bike plans of regional significance that should be advanced including the Taunton River Trail, the Mansfield/Norton Rail Trail Extension and the South Coast Bikeway. The South Coast Bikeway encompasses 10 communities, will connect to Rhode Island and Cape Cod and is a proposed alternate route of the East Coast Greenway.

4. MIDDLEBOROUGH ROTARY: This Capital Investment Plan fails to demonstrate a financial commitment to the Middleborough Rotary project. The recent decision by MassDOT to support the Middleboro alternative should expedite the advancement of this project within the time frame of the CIP. The rotary is our region’s most congested road segment and needs immediate attention.

5. NEW BEDFORD-FAIRHAVEN BRIDGE: The CIP also fails to demonstrate a commitment to replacement of New Bedford Bridge, a span that requires frequent and expensive repair while preventing economic development opportunities in the north Harbor. We applaud MassDOT for creating a Study Advisory Group and urge that this project be put on a fast track.

6. DISCREPANCIES WITH THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP): The CIP contains numerous differences with the regional TIP involving dates and funding levels. We assume that these are cash flow and project scheduling differences, but attached is a listing of all the differences that we have identified.

7. GENERAL: The previous Capital Investment Plan had a detailed pavement condition analysis that was not included in this report. Regardless of mode, all transportation users rely on pavement conditions, and this was a helpful addition to the plan.

Finally, I would like to note that the proposed referendum to repeal indexing of the gas tax would have terrible consequences for these important projects.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Stephen C. Smith

Executive Director, SRPEDD
MA Capital Investment Plan (CIP) Program Project vs. SRPEDD Transportation Improvement Program (TIP): Project Cost Discrepancies

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The CIP shows funding amounts allocated in FY2014 for the following projects that are identified as complete in the MassDOT Project Info Database

ATTLEBORO- BRIDGE REPLACEMENT AND ROADWAY RELOCATION, BR# A-16-026
THATCHER STREET OVER MBTA/CONRAIL/AMTRAK (Project #133891)
CIP 2014 Programmed Amount - $165,583

ATTLEBORO- BRIDGE REPLACEMENTS, BR# A-16-031, COUNTY STREET OVER AMTRAK & BR# A-16-003, COUNTY STREET OVER SEVEN MILE RIVER (Project #601554)
CIP 2014 Programmed Amount - $200,000

BERKLEY- DIGHTON- BRIDGE REPLACEMENT (TEMP) B-08-001=D-08-011, ELM STREET OVER THE TAUNTON RIVER (Project #604940)
CIP 2014 Programmed Amount - $316,917

BERKLEY- FREETOWN- LAKEVILLE- TAUNTON- TRAFFIC & GUIDE SIGN REPLACEMENT ON STATE ROUTE 140 (Project #604608)
CIP 2014 Programmed Amount - $84,776

CARVER- KINGSTON- PLYMPTON- RELOCATION OF A SECTION OF ROUTE 44 INCLUDING 6 BRIDGES (SECTION I) (Project #113100)
CIP 2014 Programmed Amount - $10,000

DARTMOUTH- CABLE BARRIER INSTALLATION ON I-195 (Project #606296)
CIP 2014 Programmed Amount - $1,000

DARTMOUTH- NEW BEDFORD- IMPROVEMENTS ON DARTMOUTH STREET, FROM ROCKDALE AVENUE TO ROGER STREET (3R PROJECT) (Project #601312)
CIP 2014 Programmed Amount - $1,000

DARTMOUTH- TRAFFIC SIGNALS AND GEOMETRIC IMPROVEMENTS, FAUNCE CORNER @ I-195 (Project #602757)
CIP 2014 Programmed Amount - $1,000

FAIRHAVEN- INTERSECTION & SIGNAL IMPROVEMENTS @ ALDEN ROAD & BRIDGE STREET (Project #605366)
CIP 2014 Programmed Amount - $3,000

FAIRHAVEN- RESURFACING & SIGNAL IMPROVEMENTS ON A SECTION OF ROUTE 240, FROM I-195 TO ROUTE 6 (Project #602891)
CIP 2014 Programmed Amount - $353,462
LAKEVILLE- FREETOWN- NEW BEDFORD- FAIRHAVEN- MEDIAN CABLE BARRIER INSTALLATION ON ROUTE 140 & ROUTE I-195 (Project #605914)
CIP 2014 Programmed Amount - $10,000

MANSFIELD- CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS ON ROUTE 106 (EASTMAN STREET), FROM EAST STREET TO THE EASTON T.L. (Project #605665)
CIP 2014 Programmed Amount - $404,446

NEW BEDFORD- BRIDGE PRESERVATION, N-06-014, I-195 OVER ROUTE 140 (Project #604926)
CIP 2014 Programmed Amount - $46,000

NEW BEDFORD- MULTIMODAL (LANDSIDE & WATERSIDE) POWER ELECTRIFICATION FOR COMMERCIAL FISHING PIERS (Project #605806)
CIP 2014 Programmed Amount - $61,194

NEW BEDFORD- RECONSTRUCTION OF HAWTHORNE STREET CORRIDOR (HISTORIC STREET) (Project #604293)
CIP 2014 Programmed Amount - $21,390

SEEKONK- BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, S-08-011, ROUTE 114A OVER ROUTE I-195 (Project #603005)
CIP 2014 Programmed Amount - $1,000

SEEKONK- INTERSECTION & SIGNAL IMPROVEMENTS ON CENTRAL AVENUE (ROUTE 152) (Project #604390)
CIP 2014 Programmed Amount - $94,213

SOMERSET- SWANSEA- INTERSTATE RESURFACING ON I-195 (Project #604302)
CIP 2014 Programmed Amount - $107,125

TAUNTON- EXTENSION OF ACCEL/DECEL LANES ON ROUTE 24 (AMVETS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY) AT ROUTE 140 INTERCHANGE (Project #602555)
CIP 2014 Programmed Amount - $18,136

TAUNTON- LAKEVILLE- CABLE BARRIER INSTALLATION ON ROUTE 140 (Project #606297)
CIP 2014 Programmed Amount - $100,000

TAUNTON- RECONSTRUCTION OF ROUTE 138, FROM BAKER STREET TO WEIR STREET (10,000 FT +/-) (Project #600284)
CIP 2014 Programmed Amount - $10,000
Other CIP/TIP Differences

● ACUSHNET- BRIDGE REPLACEMENTS, A-03-003, A-03-007 & A-03-008, HAMLIN STREET OVER THE ACUSHNET RIVER (Project #600645)
CIP 2018 Programmed Amount - $135,597
Estimated Total Contract Cost in MassDOT Project Info Database - $2,287,177.50
**Can we assume that the difference in funding will be programmed in FY19?**

● ATTLEBORO– INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT ROUTE 1 (WASHINGTON STREET)/ROUTE 1A (NEWPORT AVENUE) AND ROUTE 123 (HIGHLAND AVENUE) (Project #607339)
CIP 2018 Programmed Amount - $1,617,779
Total Cost Estimate Programmed in FY17 of TIP - $4,000,000
**Can we assume that the difference in funding will be programmed in FY19?**

● ATTLEBORO- RAMP RECONSTRUCTION & REALIGNMENT, FROM ROUTE I-95 (SB) TO ROUTE I-295 (SB) (Project #606733)
CIP 2015 & 2016 Programmed Amount - $4,170,686
Total Cost Estimate Programmed in FY14 of TIP - $4,134,126
Estimated Total Contract Cost in MassDOT Project Info Database - $7,323,953.80
**Difference of $3,153,267 between CIP Amount and Estimated Total Contract Cost in MassDOT Database?**

● CARVER- MIDDLEBOROUGH- BRIDGE REplacement, C-04-004=M-18-025, ROCHESTER ROAD OVER WEWENANTIC RIVER (Project #602564)
CIP 2018 Programmed Amount - $766,421
Estimated Total Contract Cost in MassDOT Project Info Database - $900,259.80
Total Cost Estimate Programmed in FY17 of TIP - $2,990,310
**Correct Cost needs to be identified and can we assume that the difference in funding will be programmed in FY19?**

● DARTMOUTH- IMPROVEMENTS ON GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC HIGHWAY (U.S. ROUTE 6) AND FAUNCE CORNER ROAD (PHASE 1) (Project #605848)
CIP 2016 & 2017 Programmed Amount - $2,676,065
Total Cost Estimate Programmed in FY15 of TIP - $2,824,758
**Difference $148,693?**

● NEW BEDFORD- CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS AND RELATED WORK ON COGGESHALL STREET, FROM PURCHASE STREET TO MITCHELL AVENUE (Project #606910)
CIP 2017 & 2018 Programmed Amount - $2,960,000
Total Cost Estimate Programmed in FY16 of TIP - $3,244,800
**Can we assume that the difference in funding ($284,800) will be programmed in FY19?**

● NEW BEDFORD- RECONSTRUCTION OF ROUTE 18 (JFK HIGHWAY), FROM COVE STREET TO GRIFFIN COURT (PHASE II)
CIP 2018 Programmed Amount - $5,607,086
Total Cost Estimate Programmed in FY17 of TIP - $7,278,247
**Can we assume that the difference in funding ($1,671,161) will be programmed in FY19?**
• NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH- TRAFFIC SIGNAL AND INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT EAST WASHINGTON STREET (ROUTE 1), SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET AND HOPPIN HILL ROAD (ROUTE 120) (Project #605368)
  CIP 2016 & 2017 Programmed Amount - $1,658,781
  Total Cost Estimate Programmed in FY15 of TIP - $1,833,672
  Difference $174,891?

• RAYNHAM- SIGNAL & INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT @ ROUTE 44 (NEW STATE HIGHWAY), ORCHARD STREET & ROUTE 24 (NB) OFF-RAMP (Project #605668)
  CIP 2016 & 2017 Programmed Amount - $3,739,823
  Total Cost Estimate Programmed in FY14 of TIP - $3,917,797
  Difference $177,974?

• SEEKONK- INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS & RELATED WORK AT FALL RIVER AVENUE (ROUTE 114A) AND COUNTY STREET (Project #607392)
  CIP 2018 Programmed Amount - $970,357
  Total Cost Estimate Programmed in FY18 of TIP - $1,687,296
  Can we assume that the difference in funding ($716,939) will be programmed in FY19?

• SEEKONK- INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT ROUTE 114A, ARCADE AVENUE & MILL ROAD, INCLUDES REHAB OF CULVERT S-08-004 OVER RUNNINS RIVER (Project #602615)
  CIP 2015 & 16 Programmed Amount - $2,727,287
  Total Cost Estimate Programmed in FY14 of TIP - $2,816,160
  Difference $888,873?

• SOMERSET- PARK & RIDE EXPANSION ON ROUTE 103 (Project #606580)
  CIP 2016 Programmed Amount - $1,032,185
  Total Cost Estimate Programmed in FY14 of TIP - $1,099,876
  Difference $67,691?
  Why is the money only being expended in FY16 if the project will be advertised in FY14?

• TAUNTON- INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT COUNTY STREET (ROUTE 140) AND HART STREET (Project #605679)
  CIP 2017 Programmed Amount - $1,733,307
  Total Cost Estimate Programmed in FY16 of TIP - $1,882,362
  Difference $149,055?

• TAUNTON- INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT THE HON. GORDON M. OWEN RIVERWAY & WILLIAMS STREET (Project #605367)
  CIP 2017 & 2018 Programmed Amount - $1,532,500
  Total Cost Estimate Programmed in FY16 of TIP - $1,680,000
  Difference $147,500?

• TAUNTON- RECONSTRUCTION ON COUNTY STREET (ROUTE 140), FROM THE ROUTE 24 (SB OFF-RAMP) NORTHERLY TO MOZZONE BOULEVARD (Project #606729)
  CIP 2016 Programmed Amount - $1,471,250
  Estimated Total Contract Cost in MassDOT Project Info Database - $1,632,079.00
  Difference $160,829?

• WAREHAM- RECONSTRUCTION OF ROUTE 6 & 28, FROM 500 FT. EAST OF TYLER AVENUE TO THE BOURNE T.L. (2.66 MILES) (Project #117106)
  CIP 2017 & 2018 Programmed Amount - $7,026,097
Total Cost Estimate Programmed in FY16 of TIP - $9,000,000

Can we assume that the difference in funding ($1,973,903) will be programmed in FY19?