

DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE
Southeastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (SMMPO)
Wednesday July 27, 2011

Held at Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD)
88 Broadway, Taunton, MA

The meeting was called to order by acting chairman Clinton Bench at 1:06pm.

The following SMMPO Members were in attendance:

Kevin Dumas, Mayor City of Attleboro, SMMPO Vice Chair

Ray Ledoux, Acting SRTA Administrator

Jean Fox, Town of Freetown

Randall Kunz, SRPEDD Chair

Carol Gill

Ronald H. Labelle

Byron Holmes

Clinton Bench, MassDOT

Pamela Haznar, MassDOT

Representing Francis Gay, GATRA Administrator

Representing Scott Lang, Mayor-City of New Bedford

Representing William Flanagan, Mayor-City of Fall River

Representing Jeffrey Mullan, Secretary of MassDOT, SMMPO Chair

Representing Acting Commissioner DePaola, MassDOT Highway

The following were also present:

Michael Chong, FHWA

David Cabral, Town of Seekonk

Steve Smith, SRPEDD

Linda Lally, SRPEDD

Lisa Estrela-Pedro, SRPEDD

Christopher Cardaci, SRPEDD

Trey Wadsworth, MassDOT Planning

Tim Kochan, MassDOT Highway Division District 5

Jim Hadfield, SRPEDD

Louise Hardiman, SRPEDD

Angela Azevedo, SRPEDD

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 1:06 by Acting Chairman Clinton Bench.
2. **Approval of Minutes: June 21, 2011:** Mr. Labelle noted that his name was spelled incorrectly in the minutes and that the minutes should be revised to correct the misspelling. A motion was made to approve the minutes with the corrections as requested for the June 21, 2011 meeting of the SMMPO held at the SRPEDD Offices in Taunton. The motion was seconded and approved UNANIMOUSLY.
3. **Berkley-Dighton Bridge Amendment to the FY11-14 TIP (to fund the entire project in FY11):** Mr. Hadfield discussed a change in the programming of the Berkley-Dighton Bridge. He explained that the project was programmed as an advanced construction project in FY2011-2015, and that MassDOT has requested that the entire \$16M amount be programmed in FY2012, and to remove the project from years FY2013-2015.

A motion was made to release the amendment to the FY2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program for a 30 day public comment period. The motion was seconded and approved UNANIMOUSLY.

4. **GATRA Amendment to the FY11-14 TIP (Add Const./Eng./Site Improvements to Attleboro Intermodal Center):** Mr. Hadfield requested changes to GATRA Section 5309 of the FFY2011-2014 TIP. He explained that an amendment was necessary to add the "Attleboro Construction, Engineering and Site Improvements at the Attleboro Intermodal Center" project to FY2011 GATRA Section 5309 Bus & Bus Facilities HPP to facilitate GATRA's use of this funding. Ms. Gill clarified that originally the project was under control of the Attleboro Redevelopment Authority and that GATRA has taken control of the project and that is why they are applying for these funds. Mr. Bench clarified that the project was funded with \$451,440 of Federal funds and the rest of the project is funded through an ITC match.

A motion was made to release the amendment of the FY2011-2014 TIP to include the "Attleboro Construction, Engineering and Site Improvements at the Attleboro Intermodal Center" project to FY2011 GATRA Section 5309 Bus & Bus Facilities HPP for a 30 day public comment period. The motion was seconded and approved UNANIMOUSLY.

5. **SRTA Amendment to the FY11-14 TIP (Change in Operating Expenses in FY2011):** Mr. Hadfield discussed a request from SRTA to modify their operating expenses for FY2011 from \$12 million to \$13.5 million. Mr. Ledoux clarified that the request also included a change to the federal amount from \$4.4 million to \$5.4 million. Mr. Bench inquired about the source of the funding and match. Mr. Ledoux replied that the source was unused prior years Section 5307 funding and the match was local funds, local assessments and state contract assistance (SCA).

Mr. Ledoux discussed updating the budget at SRTA and explained that SRTA has not been fully utilizing all sources of funding.

A motion was made to release the amendment to modify SRTA operating expenses in FY2011 for a 30 day public comment period. The motion was seconded and approved UNANIMOUSLY.

6. **2012 Regional Transportation Plan – Consider release for public review and comment:** Mr. Hadfield discussed the potential release of the draft 2012 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and expected funding levels reflected in the draft 2012 RTP.

Mr. Chong discussed a request by Federal Highway (FHWA) to specify projects projected for FY2012 through FY2015, which are not currently included in the 2012 RTP. Ms. Haznar inquired if FHWA is looking for all projects or just projects over \$10 million. Mr. Bench clarified that FHWA is looking for projects included in the FY2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) which have not been approved yet. He further clarified that after the TIP is approved the projects should be added to the RTP. Mr. Chong further clarified that any project over \$10 million or that affects conformity needs to be included in the 2012 RTP.

Mr. Bench discussed a request by MassDOT to create a summary of any changes made to the FY2012 and to report them at the next SMMPO meeting.

Mr. Bench discussed concerns by MassDOT that due to the listing of all potential Federal Aid Bridge projects for a certain time frame, the RTP does not meet fiscal constraint. Mr. Hadfield explained that the bridge list SRPEDD traditionally puts in the Transportation Plan represents a list of all needed projects. The Region generally relies on MassDOT to prioritize and propose which bridges from the list should be done with the available funding. Mr. Bench clarified that a list of needs is necessary somewhere in the document, but that MassDOT would not be comfortable endorsing the RTP unless the list in the financial chapter is fiscally constrained.

Mr. Hadfield explained that the full draft and an executive summary would be available on the SRPEDD website as well as paper and CD copies at all of the SRPEDD community's libraries and by request. He encouraged the group to review the draft and submit comments by email (tplan@srpedd.org), telephone ((508) 824-1367) fax ((508) 823-1802), and by mail (SRPEDD c/o Transportation Planning, 88 Broadway, Taunton, MA 02780).

A motion was made to release the FY2012 Regional Transportation Plan for a 30 day public comment period. The motion was seconded and approved UNANIMOUSLY.

7. **FY12-14 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – Consider release for public review and comment:** Mr. Hadfield discussed the FY2012-2015 TIP and the difficulties with selecting projects due to the amount of worthy projects and the lack of funding for them. He explained that the JTPG voted to approve the following configuration for the FY2012-2015 TIP for forwarding to the MPO:

FY2012

- Fall River – Plymouth Avenue: Total Cost \$8.1 million (\$7.2 million Surface Transportation Program / \$896,000 Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP))
- Westport – Central Village: Total Cost \$625,000 (STP-Enhancements)
- Mansfield – Route 106: Total Cost \$2,650,000 (STP)

FY2013

- Dartmouth – Faunce Corner Road: Total Cost \$8.5 million (\$5.8 million STP / \$896,000 HSIP / \$1.7 million Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ))
- Attleboro – Tiffany Street: Total Cost \$2,970,183 (STP)

FY2014

- Wareham – Routes 6 & 28, Year 1 of 2: Total Cost \$13.5 million (Year 1 \$7.6 million STP)
- New Bedford – Route 140 / Route 6 / Brownell Avenue: Total Cost \$3.3 million (\$661,000 STP / \$896,000 HSIP / \$1.7 million CMAQ)

FY2015 (Option B)

- Wareham – Routes 6 & 28, Year 2 of 2: Total Cost \$13.5 million (Year 2 \$5.8 million STP)
- Raynham – Route 44 @ Orchard Street & Route 24 Northbound Off Ramp: Total Cost \$3 million (\$384,892 STP / \$896,000 HSIP / \$1.7 million CMAQ)
- Seekonk – Route 114A @ Arcade Avenue: Total Cost \$2,812,160

Mr. Bench inquired the amount of funding allocated to the Faunce Corner Road Bridge Project in FY2013 in respect to the expected allocations in regards to the Bridge division. Mr. Hadfield clarified that they would be programming a large portion of the Surface Transportation Program allocation as well as all of the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) allocations. Mr. Estrela-Pedro further clarified that project was estimated at \$17.5 million, and that MassDOT was contributing over \$9 million and that the remaining \$8.5 million would be funded through the TIP. Ms. Haznar clarified that the allocations seemed correct in regards to the FY2013 Bridge list. Mr. Hadfield explained that originally the agreement was to allocated the entire STP target of \$8.8 million to the project, but that due to construction requirements of the Tiffany Street project and the project's lack of applicability to the HSIP program, it was decided to allocate the HSIP and CMAQ portions of the TIP target to allow the use of some STP funding for the Tiffany Street project, and that approximately \$8.5 million of the TIP target would be allocated to the Faunce Corner Road Bridge Project as agreed.

Mr. Labelle inquired about the possibility of moving the New Bedford – Intersection improvements @ Route 140 & Route 6 (Kempton Street) at Brownell Avenue to an earlier TIP year. Mr. Hadfield explained that due to the placement of the Faunce Corner Road Bridge Project, the federal requirements of the Attleboro Tiffany Street Phase II project placement and the overall cost of the project; it is unlikely the project could be moved up. Mr. Labelle expressed frustration with the progress of design the project and the lack of control the city has over the consultant for the project. Ms. Haznar discussed the cost estimate for the project and explained that the project is still at pre 25% design and that the estimate could change. She further explained that due to federal requirements for the use of the earmark associated with Tiffany Street project, the design and construction for the project must be in consecutive years, and that this project is further along in the design process than the New Bedford project.

Mr. Hadfield discussed the importance of the Wareham Route 6 project and potential difficulties with considerable land takings. He also discussed the reasons behind moving the Raynham Route 44 and Orchard Street project from FY2013 to FY2015.

Ms. Haznar discussed the following project updates:

- Mansfield Corridor Improvements on Route 106 (Eastman Street), From East Street to the Easton Town Line– at the 75% design phase and the cost is about the same
- Attleboro Reconstruction and Geometric Improvements on Tiffany Street, from Route 123 to New Road (Phase II) – at the 25% design phase
- Seekonk Intersection Improvements at Route 114A at Arcade Avenue – at the 25% design phase
- Westport Central Village Pedestrian, Bicycle and Traffic Improvements– the 25% design public hearing was held on July 20, 2011

A motion was made to approve the FY2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program for release for a 30-day public comment period. The motion was seconded and approved UNANIMOUSLY.

8. **FY12 Unified Planning Work Program – Consider release for public review and comment:** Mr. Hadfield discussed the FY2012 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). He explained the UPWP describes the scope and cost of work tasks of the SRPEDD transportation and transit staff from federal and state funding and other sources for planning purposes. He discussed various planned work programs and upcoming projects.

Mr. Bench discussed a revision of the scope of services for SRTA as outlined under Task 3.7 SRTA Technical Planning Assistance. Mr. Hadfield explained that the new scope of services was also outlined under other tasks. Mr. Ledoux explained that there would be five specific targeted scopes that SRTA will enter into, and that although the UPWP is a guiding document, there will be separate defined scopes signed for specific tasks. He further explained that the total value is estimated at \$120,000 and that in previous years SRPEDD has provided staffing assistance and caretaking responsibilities due to lack of staff at SRTA, and that in the future SRPEDD will conduct more specific planning tasks. Mr. Bench asked for more clarification on how this would work into the budget. Mr. Ledoux clarified that SRTA and SRPEDD has been discussing order of magnitude, and explained that SRTA will be looking into other services including a program through UMass Dartmouth that are not recognized in the UPWP, but will be clarified in separate scopes.

A motion was made to release the FY2012 Unified Planning work program for a 30 day public comment period. The motion was seconded and approved UNANIMOUSLY.

9. **Other Business:** Mr. Ledoux expressed thanks to SRPEDD for their help over the past few months in regards to the new scopes and organizing a SRTA Stakeholder meeting to be held on Thursday July 28, 2011.

Ms. Haznar gave the following project updates:

- Fairhaven Signal and Intersection Improvements on Huttleston Avenue (Rte 6) at 4 locations: This project is at the 100% design phase and has an advertising date in September.
- New Bedford Reconstruction of Mill Street, from Pleasant Street to Kempton Street: This project has been advertised, with bids to be opened in September.
- Middleborough Nemasket River Stormwater Pollution Mitigation: This project is expected to be advertised in August.
- Middleborough Signal and Intersection Improvements at Route 105 and Interstate 495 Ramps: This project is slated to be advertised in August.
- Mansfield Corridor Improvements on Route 106 (Eastman Street), From East Street to the Easton Town Line: This project is at the 75% design phase and is under review.
- Fall River Reconstruction and Traffic Signal Improvements on Plymouth Avenue from Wordell Street to Rhode Island Avenue at Slade Street/Laurel Street: This project is at the 75% design phase and is under review.
- Westport Central Village Pedestrian, Bicycle and Traffic Improvements: This project is at the 25% design phase and the 25% public design hearing was held on July 20, 2011.

10. **Date, Time, Place for Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Wednesday August 31, 2011 at 1pm.

11. **Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 2:07pm by Acting Chairman Clinton Bench.