

## Joint Transportation Planning Group

Minutes of meeting held on March 16, 2011 at SRPEDD, 88 Broadway, Taunton, MA

### In attendance were the following:

Lee Azinheira, Town of Mansfield	Charles Cristello, Town of Middleborough
Bill Roth, Town of Fairhaven	Andrew Sousa, Town of Westport
Zeb Arruda, City of New Bedford	Manuel H. Silva, City of New Bedford
Jonathan Henry, Town of Marion	Byron Holmes, City of Fall River
John Charbonneau, Town of Wareham/Rochester	Walter Cruz, Town of Wareham
Mark Andrews, Town of Wareham	Dave Cabral, Town of Seekonk
Roger Stolte, Town of Raynham	David Hickox, Town of Dartmouth
Robert Patneau, GPI	Jamie Pisano, VHB
Andy McBride, Ocean State Signal Co.	Paul Fellows, GTT
Pamela Haznar, MassDOT	Tim Kochan, MassDOT District 5
Trey Wadsworth, MassDOT	Lucero Cano, FHWA
Steve Smith, SRPEDD	Jim Hadfield, SRPEDD
Paul Mission, SRPEDD	Linda Lally, SRPEDD
Lisa Estrela-Pedro, SRPEDD	Lilia Cabral, SRPEDD
Adam Recchia, SRPEDD	Christopher Cardaci, SRPEDD
Jacqueline Schmidt, SRPEDD	

1. **Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order at 2:08 pm by Chairman Lee Azinheira.
2. **Approval of the Minutes, January 19, 2011** - A motion was made to approve the minutes of the JTPG meeting held on January 19, 2011 as submitted. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY
3. **Presentation on Emergency Vehicle Preemption Equipment** – Mr. Fellows gave a presentation on traffic signal preemption technology. The presentation covered a description of the Opticom™ systems and Global Traffic Technologies, LLC (GTT) as well as possible emergency vehicle, transit and software options. More information on the technology can be found on GTT's website: [www.gtt.com](http://www.gtt.com). Mr. McBride from Ocean State Signal Company was introduced as a local distributor.

Mr. Hadfield asked what it takes to get MassDOT to put in a signal preemption system if there are no improvements planned for the signal. Ms. Haznar discussed a previous case where a signal was installed by MassDOT after a construction project due to an oversight during the original project, and that to date, no community has requested installation of a preemption system in an existing signal unless there is already a project planned at that signal. Mr. Fellows discussed a situation in Marshfield where the Fire Department paid for the system and installation and MassDOT provided updated signal plans. Ms. Haznar explained that in order to install a system the signal plans need to be revised, which is not a simple process. Mr. Fellows explained that in the past, communities have implemented systems by using mitigation from private developers, and then implement systems at the rest of signals over time.

Mr. Stolte inquired if it was more dangerous to have some intersections with the systems and not all? Mr. Fellows replied that caution is needed in all cases, and that emergency driver training is an important part of the system, and a confirmation beacon allows the driver to see if the signal is activated, reducing the potential for a collision at the signal.

Mr. Stolte further inquired to the cost of the system and if there were improvements and maintenance requirements for the technology. Mr. Fellows replied that there have been many improvements to the system and that the system is a proven product. He further explained that the product does need maintenance, which can be proactively addressed through software.

4. **Discussion of amended 2007 Regional Transportation Plan regarding the Fall River Interchange Improvements at Route I-195/Route 79/Route 138** – Mr. Hadfield discussed a request from FHWA to amend the 2007 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) to include the Fall River Western Expressway Project. The proposed amendment includes the addition of the entire bridge/ramp project identified in the Accelerated Bridge Program and the source of funding. The specific changes to the Plan include the following:

- Update Chapter 7 (Bridges) Table 7-1 to remove 3 items listed as bridge number F-02-59.
- Update Chapter 7 Table 7-2 to remove Items 6, 7 and 12 totaling \$16 million which are items related to the Route 79/I-195 interchange. These items will be included as part of the larger project.
- Update Chapter 19 (Financial) Table 19-3 to incorporate Accelerated Bridge Program funding into the financial element of the RTP.

Mr. Hadfield explained that the amendments have been released for a 30 day comment period. A public meeting for the amendments to the RTP was held on February and no comments were received.

Mr. Stolte inquired if the amendments would affect any other bridge projects. Mr. Hadfield replied that the project would be funded through the Accelerated Bridge Program and that the project would make the long term maintenance more manageable.

5. **FY11-14 TIP Amendments** – Mr. Hadfield discussed possible amendments to the FY2011 – 2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

- Project selection using \$1.2 million unallocated target balance – Mr. Hadfield discussed potential uses for \$1.2 million of unallocated Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds for FY2011 of the TIP. Mr. Hadfield emphasized that the projects must be ready for advertising by September 2011 to utilize this funding. The following projects were discussed:
  - Fairhaven Safety Improvements Route 6 at four intersections – Ms. Haznar explained that the cost estimate for the project has increased by \$540,000 and that the project is at 75% design.
  - New Bedford Mill Street – Ms. Haznar explained that the cost estimate for the project has decreased by \$490,000 and that 100% design plans have been received.
  - Middleborough Nemasket River Stormwater – Mr. Cristello explained that there was an abutter causing some difficulty with the project, but that the plans should be submitted in about a month. Ms. Haznar explained that the project has had a design public hearing and is at 25% design.
  - Middleborough Signalization of I-495 Ramps at Route 105 - Ms. Haznar explained that the project has had a design public hearing and that 75% design plans are expected soon. She further explained that the project is lagging but should be completed in time for funding.
  - Maintenance on sections of Route 44 and Route 138 – Ms. Haznar discussed a maintenance project that has been advanced through the design process and is approximately \$1.2 million. The project limits are approximately 0.6 miles of Route 44 from Arlington Street to Route 104 in Taunton and approximately 0.6 miles of Route 138 from Jackson Street in Taunton to the Proposed Wal-Mart Location in Raynham. The section of Route 44 flooded in the spring of 2010 and is really bad shape. The project is at the Plans, Specifications and Estimates (PS&E) stage and would involve cold planing, sidewalk reconstruction, wheelchair ramps, minor drainage improvements, and replacement of traffic loop signals.
  - Mansfield Route 106 Signalization – Mr. Azinheira asked if the Mansfield Route 106 project could be split over 2 years to utilize the funding. He discussed a recommendation

by the consultant that that construction on the road needs to be started as soon as possible as accelerated deterioration on the roads may affect the scope of the project. Ms. Haznar explained that there are restrictions on splitting a project into more than one year, and that in order to split the cost the project total must be greater than the TIP target for more than one year and therefore this project would not qualify.

A question was raised regarding whether a motion was needed for both the addition of a project to fill the \$1.2 million gap and SRTA changes. Mr. Hadfield explained that amendments to the TIP are required to be advertised in local papers which is expensive, and that if possible, SRPEDD would like to advertise both amendments at the same time to cut costs. Mr. Cristello inquired if the SRTA amendments could be delayed. Ms. Lally replied that they could be. Mr. Hadfield explained that despite attempts to find other projects to fill the gap, the Route 44/Route 138 Maintenance project is the only project that could be completed in time to use the funding.

A motion was made to send the recommendation to amend the FFY 2011-2014 TIP to include the Raynham Route 138 and Taunton Route 44 maintenance project for \$1.2 million to the MPO for approval. The motion was seconded and approved UNANIMOUSLY.

- SRTA – Changes and Additions to FY11-14 – Ms. Lally explained that SRTA has requested the following changes to the FY11-14 TIP.
  - FFY 2011 Section 5307 – Addition of “Rehab Brayton Avenue Maintenance Facility (Drainage and Structural)” for \$40,000.
  - FFY 2011 Section 5309 – Change “Purchase Two (2) Replacement Fixed Route Buses” to “Purchase One (1) Replacement Fixed Route Bus” for \$355,000 and “Five (5) Demand Response Vans – Earmark” for \$330,000
  - FFY 2012 Section 5307 – Addition of “Fall River Terminal Construction” for \$2 million.
  - Funding amount changes for FFY 2011-2014

Mr. Stolte asked for clarification regarding the line item “Tire Lease.” Ms. Lally replied that the regional transit authorities lease their tires instead of purchasing them, and that the lease is for two years.

A motion was made to send that requested SRTA amendments to the MPO for approval. The motion was seconded and approved UNANIMOUSLY.

6. **Further discussion of the development of the FY2012 -2015 TIP** – Mr. Hadfield explained that SRPEDD is currently in the process of developing the FY2012-FY2015 TIP. SRPEDD staff has performed an evaluation criteria process for all of the projects that could potentially be incorporated in the TIP. In the upcoming months, SRPEDD will be revamping the evaluation criteria and is looking for input. Mr. Hadfield further explained that projects that don’t include everything that could possibly need to be done will score low, but if the project includes everything it could be too expensive to fund. The following projects were discussed for possible placement on the TIP:

- Dartmouth Faunce Corner Road Bridge Project – Mr. Hadfield discussed a previous vote by the JTPG to identify the Faunce Corner Road Bridge Project as being worthy of devoting an entire year of TIP target funding to the project. Currently the Wareham Route 6/28 project is programmed in FY2013 and FY2014 as an advance construction project. This project requires a tremendous amount of land takings that may not be completed in time for funding in FY2013. Mr. Hadfield further explained that the JTPG has discussed inserting the Faunce Corner Road Bridge Project in FY2013 in the amount of \$7.6 million and moving the Wareham Route 6/28 project out to FY2014. This possibility has been discussed with MassDOT Headquarters, who is looking for the JTPGs opinion on this matter. Mr. Roth inquired if 50-75% of the target could be

applied to the project instead of the full target. Mr. Hadfield replied that the project would only be allocated the amount of funding that would be applied to Wareham, approximately \$7.6 million, and that there would still be CMAQ and HSIP funded projects for that year. Mr. Cristello asked if there was an estimate for the bridge work alone. Ms. Haznar replied that there is no estimate at this time, but that it could be approximately \$10 million of the total project cost. Mr. Cristello suggested that the portion of the project that would be applied to the road improvements could be separated from the bridge project and funded using the TIP, instead of devoting the whole target. Mr. Patneau asked if the 2007 RTP would need to be amended to include this project. Mr. Hadfield replied that the FY 2011 RTP should be in place in time for this TIP.

- Wareham Route 6/28 – Mr. Andrews discussed Wareham’s commitment to the Route 6/28 project. He explained that the project is critical to the community and that the town administrator’s office and the board of selectmen are committed to the project. He further explained that the town will be holding a community development meeting to inform businesses on Cranberry Highway and to jumpstart the land takings process. MassDOT will be making a presentation at this meeting. The town will be forming a task force to work with businesses on the land takings. Mr. Hadfield expressed concern with the readiness of the project for funding in FY 2013 due to the numerous land takings. Mr. Roth asked if MassDOT is responsible for the land takings. Ms. Haznar replied that the MassDOT Right of Way (ROW) office is responsible, which has reviewed the project and is confident of being able to complete the land takings in time for funding. Mr. Cristello suggested that the town appoint someone to work on the land takings, and to try to get as many people to sign on as possible. Mr. Roth suggested that the town work with MassDOT on the land takings. Ms. Haznar explained that the project was advanced to 100% design in the 1990’s and that ROW issues stalled the project.
- North Attleborough – Route 1 and Chestnut Street Intersection, SRPEDD and MassDOT will be performing a road safety audit at this intersection with crash data received from the town.
- Taunton – County Street and Hart Street Intersection, significant safety and congestion problem. Mr. Holmes inquired if CVS was on the hook for any improvements to the intersection. Mr. Hadfield replied that the Taunton Development Corporation was required to take the design for the intersection up to 25%, and that the project is currently at 25% design. The city received some funding from CVS for design only.
- Other projects – SRPEDD has compiled a list of projects that have been through the Project Needs Form (PNF) stage but have not progressed further and have not been ranked through the evaluation criteria process because more information is needed. Mr. Hadfield encouraged the group to contact SRPEDD if they are interested in furthering some of these projects, and offered assistance with studies to show need or justify mitigation.
- Seekonk – Grist Mill Project, Mr. Cabral discussed a \$2.5 million project proposed for this location that has stalled due to lack of funding.
- Transportation Enhancement Projects – Mr. Wadsworth discussed a program for MassDOT that will provide an additional \$268,000 to any enhancement project over \$500,000 for FY2012-2014. Ms. Haznar inquired if MassDOT is still providing a \$1 match for every \$2 put up by the region towards enhancements. Mr. Wadsworth replied that they would be.

7. **Other Business** – Mr. Hadfield discussed FHWA guidelines regarding sign retroreflectivity and requests SRPEDD has received for guidance on the matter. Mr. Fitzgerald explained that through the new MUTCD, communities must establish and implement a sign maintenance program that addresses retroreflectivity requirements by January 2012 and must comply with new retroreflectivity requirements for most traffic signs by January 2015. Input from other communities is sought to determine what measures they are taking and if it would be possible to share services. Please contact SRPEDD if you are interested or if you have experience with these requirements and could assist other communities.

Mr. Kochan announced that he is the MassDOT District 5 Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator and that he will be assisting RPAs with outreach efforts, specifically the upcoming Bay State Bike Week. Bay State Bike Week will be May 14-20, 2011 and will feature bicycle friendly activities throughout the state. Mr. Kochan encouraged any group that is thinking of planning an activity for bike week to consult the MassDOT Event planning guide and to register their event on [www.baystatebikeweek.org](http://www.baystatebikeweek.org) . Possible SRPEDD region bike week efforts were discussed, including a possible ride between Fall River and New Bedford in conjunction with Mass in Motion. He discussed various planned events by other RPAs. Ms. Haznar praised Mr. Kochan's efforts so far as Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, and emphasized that MassDOT is also focusing on accommodating other modes in design whenever possible.

Mr. Mission announced an upcoming stormwater workshop on Wednesday April 20, 2011 provided free by the Mass Audubon Society. The workshop will be held at the Bristol County Agricultural High School in Dighton from 1-5pm. For more information please visit: [www.massaudubon.org/shapingthefuture](http://www.massaudubon.org/shapingthefuture).

Ms. Haznar discussed the need to change the description of the Fall River Route 79 Bridge/Ramps Rehabilitation Project from Rehabilitation to Replacement as the current preferred alternative involves the replacement of portions of the ramp system.

Ms. Lally announced that SRTA is currently accepting applications for a new administrator, and that anyone interested in applying should visit their website: [www.srtabus.com](http://www.srtabus.com). The application for this position closes March 31, 2011.

8. **Date, Time, and Place for Next Meeting** – May 11, 2011, 2 pm at SRPEDD. The possibility of having a set meeting was discussed.
9. **Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 3:57 pm by Chairman Azinheira.