

Joint Transportation Planning Group

Minutes of meeting held on May 11, 2011 at SRPEDD, 88 Broadway, Taunton, MA

In attendance were the following:

Lee Azinheira, Town of Mansfield	Bill Roth, Town of Fairhaven
Manuel H. Silva, City of New Bedford	Christopher Peck, Town of Lakeville
Jack Healey, Town of Freetown	Roger Stolte, Town of Raynham
John Clover, City of Attleboro	Ron Dubuc, City of Attleboro
Randall Kunz, SRPEDD Chair	Byron Holmes, City of Fall River
Andrew Bagas, Town of Middleborough	Steve Antinelli, Town of Swansea
Cathal O'Brien, City of Taunton	Steven Sullivan, Town of Dartmouth
Robert Patneaude, GPI	Tim Kochan, MassDOT District 5
Lucero Cano, FHWA – RI	Jim Hadfield, SRPEDD
Paul Mission, SRPEDD	Linda Lally, SRPEDD
Louise Hardiman, SRPEDD	Lisa Estrela-Pedro, SRPEDD
Lilia Cabral, SRPEDD	Adam Recchia, SRPEDD
Angela Azevedo, 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, March 16, 2011:** A motion was made to approve the minutes of the JTPG meeting held on March 16, 2011 as submitted. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY
3. **Approval of Proposed TIP Adjustment for GATRA:** Mr. Hadfield discussed changes to GATRA Section 5307 of the FFY2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to utilize toll credits.

A motion was made to approve changes to GATRA Section 5307 for FFY2011 of the TIP as an Administrative Adjustment. The motion was seconded and approved UNANIMOUSLY.

4. **Presentation / Discussion of Optical Speed Bars:** Mr. Hadfield introduced Ms. Lucero Cano, from the Federal Highway Administration, who has been working with SRPEDD as part of FHWA's MPO training program. Mr. Hadfield explained that as part of the road safety audit process, optical speed bars were highlighted as a potential speed reduction measure and during her time at SRPEDD, Ms. Cano researched the requirements and possible uses of the measure and gave a presentation on the use of optical speed bars as a speed reduction tool. She highlighted guidelines for optical speed bars from the 2009 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), specifically Section 3B.22, and the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Report 613.

A question was raised regarding the effectiveness of the optical speed bars over time on speed reduction. Ms. Cano explained that the optical speed bars are more effective at first and then as motorists become used to the markings they lose some effectiveness, however; there is a reduction in speed overall. A question was raised regarding lane width requirements for optical speed bars. Ms.

Cano replied that there are no lane width requirements at this time. Mr. Kochan inquired if the optical speed bars would replace the need for signage. Ms. Cano replied that the optical speed bars are designed to enhance current speed measures, not replacement them.

Mr. Hadfield discussed an effort by SRPEDD in conjunction with UMass Amherst to test optical speed bars in the region. He discussed possible sites throughout the region as highlighted by SRPEDD's road safety audits. He explained that SRPEDD would also like to test the measure at locations with identified safety problems, and that if a community is interested they should contact him by email ihadfield@srpedd.org or by calling (508) 824-1467 extension 230.

Discussion ensued regarding possible maintenance requirements for optical speed bars.

5. **Discussion of the FY2012 Unified Planning Work Program:** Mr. Hadfield announced that SRPEDD is in the process of developing the FY2012 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). He explained the UPWP describes the scope and cost of the work tasks of the SRPEDD transportation and transit staff, and also serves any use of federal highway, federal transit or MassDOT funding for planning purposes. Mr. Hadfield discussed the following projects/programs:

- 3C Process – provides professional transportation planning staff support to the MPO, the JTPG, the SRPEDD Commission, MassDOT, the GATRA Advisory Board, the SRTA Advisory Board, and to the cities and towns in the region.
- Public Participation and Environmental Justice – encourage public participation in transportation planning issues through the JTPG, to educate, solicit, review, rank and select regional projects under the Transportation Enhancement Program and to insure that there is equity in the distribution of transportation resources in the region.
- Transportation Improvement Program – maintain a program of transportation improvement projects that is consistent with transportation plans and regulations.
- Data Management and GIS – develop, update and maintain transportation related information and data to ensure that transportation recommendations and decisions are based on the most current and complete information possible.
- Regional Modeling – continued maintenance of the TransCAD Regional Travel Demand Model.
- Regional Traffic Counting – continue to conduct automatic traffic counts at various locations throughout the region including MHD identified coverage count stations and at locations deemed necessary to maintain adequate data for regional planning purposes.
- Transit Data Maintenance/NTD – maintain data for transit authorities for use in NTD reporting for FTA.
- Congestion Management Studies – update the status of projects identified in the current Congestion Management Plan for the region and to examine and propose improvement alternatives to regional traffic patterns and existing or projected congested roadways, traffic corridors, public transit and intermodal facilities.
- Safety Management Studies – continue assistance to local officials in the review of safety issues within their communities including crash report analyses, signal/stop warrants analyses, speed studies, site plan review, etc. Suggested projects for FFY2010 include:
 - Pedestrian Corridor Safety Audits
 - Intersection Safety Audits
- Pavement Management –continuance of a three year process to update the regional survey of pavement conditions for the region as part of a federal directive.

- Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning – increase efforts in this task including evaluation of bike plans, ADA compliance, event organization and public outreach.
- Geographic Roadway Runoff Inventory Program (GRRIP) – continue effort to inventory roadway drainage structures in environmentally sensitive areas.
- Special Projects – SRPEDD is seeking input for specific projects that are unique to the area from cities and towns that have a problem that they would like to have studied. For any input or study ideas please contact Jim Hadfield by email at jhadfield@srpedd.org or by calling 508-824-1367 extension 230.

6. **Further discussion of the development of the FY2012-2015 TIP:** Mr. Hadfield discussed the development of the FY2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He explained that previously there was an unallocated balance of \$1.2 million for FFY2012, but that the balance has been reduced to \$312,520 as a result of increasing project costs. He further explained that the JTPG had voted previously to add the “Maintenance on sections of Route 44 and Route 138 in Raynham and Taunton” project to the TIP for FFY 2012, but the project has not been added as there is no funding available due to the increase in project costs. The following projects and updates were discussed:

FY2011

- Middleborough Signalization of Route 105 and Interstate 495 Ramps – Mr. Hadfield explained that there was a large cost increase for this project which has yet to be explained.
- Fairhaven Safety Improvements Route 6 at four intersections – Mr. Kochan explained that the cost estimate for the project has increased by \$540,000 and that the project is at 75% design. Mr. Roth inquired about the advertising date for this project. Mr. Kochan replied that the advertising date is July 30, 2011. Discussion ensued regarding when construction would begin in relation to the advertising date.
- New Bedford Reconstruction of Mill Street – Mr. Kochan explained that the cost estimate for the project has decreased by \$490,000 and that 100% design plans have been received and are under review. He further explained that less than 10 right of entries are left to process for this project. Mr. Silva announced that they should be at MassDOT in less than a week.
- Middleborough Nemasket River Stormwater – Mr. Kochan explained that the project is at 25% design status and that MassDOT Highway Division District 5 (District 5) is awaiting a combined 75% and 100% design plan. Mr. Bagas explained that the design plans should be submitted by next Thursday if not sooner and that they are waiting on a Conservation Commission meeting. He further explained that all the easements and drainage modifications for the project are in place and that the town has received approval from Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP). Mr. Kochan asked if the right of way (ROW) plans would be included. Mr. Bagas replied that they would be included.
- New Bedford Shore Side Electrification Project – Mr. Hadfield explained that a public hearing was held recently for the project and that there was a slight increase in the project cost and that this could be due to Federal Highway’s demand that the project include a trucking component to be eligible for funding. Mr. Kochan explained that MassDOT is expecting a combined 75% and 100% design submission for the project, possibly this month.
- Raynham Route 138 and Taunton Route 44 maintenance project – Ms. Hadfield explained that this was a maintenance project that had been previously considered by the JTPG for inclusion in FY 2011 of the TIP but due to project cost increases will no longer fit within financial constraint. Mr. Stolte inquired about placement of this project on the TIP. Mr. Hadfield explained that

there is no room on the TIP for this project currently. Mr. Stolte emphasized the importance of the project to the Town of Raynham due to the current poor conditions and the Proposed Wal-Mart Location in Raynham. It was suggested that the town look for mitigation from the project developer for the roadway improvements. Mr. Stolte explained that the developer is required to make intersection improvements and that no roadway improvements were included.

- Attleboro Tiffany Street Phase 2 – Mr. Kochan explained that 25% design plans have been received by District 5.
- Attleboro Safe Routes to School – Mr. Kochan explained that the project is at 100% design, and that 100% ROW plans have been received.
- Wareham Cohasset Narrows – Mr. Kochan explained that 100% ROW plans were accepted in March.

FY2012

- New Bedford Route 6 at Route 140 and Brownell Avenue – Mr. Kochan explained the project is at pre 25% design with a cost estimate of \$3.09 million. Mr. Hadfield explained that the project is currently listed at \$1.5 million. Mr. Silva explained that the cost increase was due to drainage issues at the intersection. Mr. Hadfield explained that this increase could be a problem with programming FY2012.
- Mansfield Route 106 Reconstruction – Mr. Kochan explained that the project is at 25% design, and that District 5 is awaiting 75% design plans. Mr. Azinheira explained that they are finishing up the design plans and they should be available soon.
- Fall River Plymouth Avenue – Mr. Kochan explained that the project is at 25% design, and that MassDOT Headquarters has received ROW plans. Mr. Hadfield explained that the project is including most of the recommendations from SRPEDD's corridor study, and that the focal point of the project is the intersection of Rodman Street and Plymouth Ave that is ranked the most dangerous intersection in Massachusetts. He explained that while the project is addressing many important problems along the corridor, the project should focus on the Rodman Street intersection and the problems at the I-195 interchange, and should consider breaking the project up into phases to best address the problems with the amount of available funding. Mr. Holmes explained that the city is looking to scale back the project limits.
- Westport Central Village – Mr. Kochan explained that the project is at 25% design and that comments on the design have been forwarded to headquarters. He further explained that the cost estimate for the project is \$625,000 with an advertising date of September 1, 2012.

7. **Discussion of the FY2011 Regional Transportation Plan – Projects:** Mr. Hadfield discussed progress on the FY2011 Regional Transportation Plan (2011 RTP). Mr. Hadfield explained that due to recently released financial numbers from the State, the predicted level of funding is down 30% for years 2016-2020 and that reduction in funding has made selecting projects for the 2011 RTP challenging. He further explained that SRPEDD is looking at which projects will fit within financial constraint for the FY2011 RTP, and that during this process, projects from previous Regional Transportation Plans that have not been completed are being examined to determine if the project should continue to be included in the current plan. Specifically, the Widening of Route 24 from Route 140 north to Interstate 495 from 2 to 3 lanes was discussed, and may possibly be excluded from the FY2011 due to improvements at the Route 140 interchange and a reduction in traffic due to South Coast Rail. He announced that SRPEDD will be looking for input from the JTPG and from local communities as to which projects fit the region's priorities.

Mr. Roth inquired about the inclusion of the Faunce Corner Road Bridge project in the FY2011 RTP. Mr. Hadfield explained that the project has not be programmed yet, however the project is a priority for the region and potential funding sources are being discussed at the state level. Mr. Roth emphasized the importance of this project and the need to move it forward.

Mr. Hadfield discussed upcoming JTPG meetings at which the inclusion of the Faunce Corner Road Bridge Project in the TIP will be discussed as well as potential projects for FFY2015. The following potential projects were discussed:

- Carver Route 58 Reconstruction
- North Attleborough Route 1 at Chestnut Street Intersection Improvements
- Seekonk Arcade and Fall River Avenue (Grist Mill) Intersection Improvements
- Taunton County and Hart Street Intersection Improvements – Mr. O’Brien explained that the project is moving forward and that 100% design plans are expected in June. He further explained that CVS is funding the design and cannot obtain an occupancy permit until the design is paid in full. Mr. Hadfield explained that if Taunton would like the project to be placed on the TIP, a representative needs to attend future JTPG meetings.
- Mansfield North Main Street Roundabouts – Mr. Azinheira discussed a possible future project to construct 2 roundabouts on North Main Street based on recommendations from a SRPEDD corridor study.

8. **Presentation of the South Coast Bikeway:** Mr. Recchia gave a brief presentation on the South Coast Bikeway and the SRPEDD Regional Bike Plan. He discussed the Regional Bikeway Summit that was held at UMass Dartmouth’s Advanced Technology and Manufacturing Center on February 15, 2011. The summit was well attended and many regional bikeway issues were discussed. Mr. Recchia explained that the proposed South Coast Bikeway would extend from the Rhode Island State Line to the Cape. The proposed bikeway is part of the State Bike Plan and the East Coast Greenway. He discussed the upcoming May 14-20, 2011 Bay State Bike Week events including a ride on Sunday May 15, 2011 connecting Fall River and New Bedford through UMass Dartmouth. The event is cosponsored by SRPEDD, Mass in Motion, MassDOT, MassBike, MassRIDES and UMassDartmouth. More information can be found on the SRPEDD website: www.srpedd.org as well as www.baystatebikeweek.org.

9. **Other Business:** Mr. Mission announced that an advisory group is being assembled to discuss possible interim improvements to the Middleborough Rotary, and that anyone who is interested should please contact him by email pmission@srpedd.org or by calling (508) 824-1367 extension 225.

1. **Date, Time, and Place for Next Meeting** – June 8, 2011, 2 pm at SRPEDD.

2. **Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 pm by Chairman Azinheira.