Old Colony Planning Council  
Minutes of the Meeting  
February 27, 2019

The five hundred and fifty forth meeting of the Old Colony Planning Council was held on Wednesday, February 27, 2019 at the Council offices located at 70 School Street, Brockton, MA.

OCPC Delegates/Alternates Present

David Klein  
Robert Moran, Jr.  
Jeanmarie Joyce  
Laura Fitzgerald-Kemmett  
Robert Downey  
Christine Joy  
Forrest Lindwall  
Eldon F. Moreira  
Fred Gilmetti

OCPC Delegates/Alternates Present

Abington  
Brockton  
Easton  
Hanson  
Kingston  
Plympton  
Stoughton Alternate  
West Bridgewater  
Whitman

Communities Not Represented

Avon  
Bridgewater  
Duxbury  
Duxbury  
East Bridgewater  
Halifax  
Hanover  
Pembroke  
Plymouth  
Delegate-at-Large

Others Present

John W. Kelley, Jr.  
Pasquale Ciaramella  
Raymond Guarino  
Bruce Hughes

Others Present

Avon (Guest)  
OCPC  
OCPC  
OCPC

1. CALL TO ORDER/MOMENT OF SILENCE: In the absence of Council President Frank Staffier, Council Treasurer Christine Joy called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Ms. Joy called for a moment of silence in memory of Easton Delegate Jeanmarie Joyce’s mother who passed away recently and for CEDS Committee Member and Plymouth County Tourism Executive Director Paul Cripps who also passed away recently.

2. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS: Council Executive Director Mr. Pasquale Ciaramella read the roll call.

3. MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 30, 2019 MEETING: Council Treasurer Joy asked if there were any additions or corrections to the meeting minutes as prepared. Mr. Eldon Moreira moved to accept the minutes as prepared, seconded by Ms. Jeanmarie Joyce. So voted.


5. STAFF REPORT: Economic Development: Mr. Ciaramella said staff is working on the EDA work plan and budget for FY 2020. There was a CEDS Committee meeting on February 4, 2019. The next CEDS Committee meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2019 at noon. Area Agency on Aging: Staff has continued work on the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) and the Ombudsman
Programs for FFY 2019. **Transportation:** Staff is continuing work on Route 106 Traffic Study in West Bridgewater, East Bridgewater, Halifax, Plympton and Kingston; Technical studies for BAT; Pavement Management Program; and initiated work on the OCPC’s 2019 Traffic Counting Program. Staff also continues to provide Technical Assistance to our member communities and is working on numerous projects. Staff hosted an MPO meeting in January, and a JTC and MPO meetings in February 2019. A JTC meeting has been scheduled for March 7, 2019 and an MPO meeting for March 19, 2019. **Comprehensive Planning:** Staff initiated work on the 2019 DLTA projects. Projects selection for the 2019 DLTA Program was completed and communities have been notified of their Project. OCPC is working with other RPAs and the state legislature to raise the current statewide DLTA funding amount from $2.8 million to $3.4 million. Executive Director Ciaramella recently met with state legislators at the statehouse to discuss next year’s DLTA Funding. **Community Septic Management:** Staff is continuing with the septic loan program. Communities in this program are Avon, Cohasset, Hanson, Kingston and Stoughton.

A list of Upcoming Meetings/Events for February, March and April 2019 was included in the meeting packet.

6. REGIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEWS:

**Industrial Revenue Bond (Information only)**

1. **MassDevelopment Bond Review** - Vinfern Corp., $42,900,000 for financing and refinancing of properties throughout MA including the acquisition, renovation, furnishing and/or equipping of real property, buildings and improvements throughout Massachusetts. Including the following facilities in the OCPC communities: East Bridgewater, 920 Union Street, Halifax: 123 Palmer Mill Road, 53 West Washington Street and 132 Woodbine Avenue, Pembroke: 490 Center Street, Plymouth: 91 Carver Road, 32 South Pond Road and 340 Court Street.

**Environmental Notifications (Information only)**

1. **15978 - Elm Street Roadway Improvements (Bridgewater) ENF** - The Site extends 1.6 miles along Elm Street bounded in the south by Pleasant Street (Route 104) and bounded in the North by the Bridgewater/ West Bridgewater town lines. Elm Street connects Route 104 to Route 106 leading from Bridgewater to West Bridgewater, adjacent to Route 24. Elm Street serves the Town's industrially-zoned area as well as existing and new 40B developments. A complete rebuilding of the road is required to bring the road up to industrial standards, and to accomplish multi-modal accessibility as required by Complete Streets and MassDOT standards. An existing 22-foot wide roadway with no sidewalk presently occupies the Site. Scattered residential and commercial properties exist along this portion of Elm Street. Under existing conditions, stormwater runoff either flows directly off the road to wetland resource areas on either side of the road, or enters an intermittent drainage system which eventually outfalls to the adjacent wetlands. Nearly the entire Project length is within the Hockomock Swamp Area of Critical Environmental Concern.
The proposed Project consists of roadway reconstruction, pedestrian improvements, and drainage improvements along Elm Street from the West Bridgewater town line south to Pleasant Street (Route 104). The Project will consist of work on approximately 1.6 miles of Elm Street including reconstruction of the roadway surface, roadway widening and constructing six-foot concrete sidewalks throughout the project Drainage improvements are also proposed along the roadway as a part of the Project.

The proposed roadway improvements include a complete reconstruction of the existing roadway surface, which is in poor condition, widening of the existing roadway from 22-feet to 26-feet to add a 2-foot shoulder on each side. The entire project length will include full depth pavement reconstruction to rebuild the roadway base and pavement surface. The roadway will generally consist of two 11-foot lanes; but the lane widths will be reduced to 10 feet in two locations to narrow the roadway overall and avoid impacts to adjacent wetlands.

A 6-foot wide sidewalk, on one side of the roadway, will also be included in the proposed Project to provide pedestrian access along the entire Project length. New wheel chair ramps will be installed at intersections and driveways and at crosswalks at both intersections with Sophia Lane and at Station 86+25 along the Project. The addition of the sidewalk along the roadway will provide accommodation for pedestrians and improve safety for both pedestrians and vehicles.

A new stormwater drainage system will be installed throughout the Project Site, with new catch basins, manholes, piping and outlets. Under existing conditions, there is a limited stormwater collection system in the roadway that collects runoff and releases it directly to the side of the roadway. Most of the roadway does not have a drainage system and stormwater is shed directly to the adjacent land area. The new drainage system will collect runoff in a closed drainage system with 30 new deep sump catch basins or gutter inlets. The new drainage system will include a new gravel wetland treatment basin to hold and provide water quality treatment prior to release. Stormwater will be discharged at 11 locations along the roadway. There are two direct discharge points that cannot be improved, although a well stabilized riprap slope will be installed to prevent erosion.

West Bridgewater Delegate Mr. Eldon Moreira expressed concern of how this project might affect the Town of West Bridgewater. Mr. Ciaramella said this project will be funded by a MassWorks grant and is basically a reconstruction of the existing road.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. UPDATE ON 2019 DISTRICT LOCAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (DLTA) PROGRAM. Mr. Ciaramella said the Council has received funding for 2019 projects. Project requests have been received from the following communities: Abington, Housing Production Plan. Avon, complete a Housing Production Plan and an assessment of DeMarco Park. To review the feasibility of improvements that would increase passive recreational opportunities and physical activity. Brockton, Assistance to advance the Brockton Urban Revitalization (Renewal) Plan by looking for support with predictable permitting through Chapter 43D Expedited Permitting Program for economic development projects on
properties owned by the Brockton Redevelopment Authority. Hanson, Public/Private partnership to create a sewer district utilizing a local treatment facility on or near Main Street. Halifax, Prepare a Housing Production Plan. Pembroke, examine Zoning Bylaws for methods to increase the supply of housing and provide assistance to the town to complete their ADA transition plan for the Open Space Recreation Plan drafted by the Conway School. Plymouth, prepare a fully updated Zoning Map including providing the town with an electronic version for posting on the town website and a digital file that can be assessed for future edits. Stoughton, complete a Housing Production Plan. Whitman, complete a Housing Production Plan. Rural Policy Plan, work with MARPA on the Rural Policy Advisory Commission with writing of the MA Rural Policy Plan. Regional, Working with the Municipal Aggregation Program and the Entergy Working Group. Technical Assistance, contingency/unanticipated projects. Current status, when we created a DLTA budget for 2019 we created a contingency line item for unanticipated costs.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

A. PRESENTATION – ROUTE 106 CORRIDOR STUDY. Mr. Raymond Guarino, OCPC Senior Transportation Planner, presented on the Route 106 Corridor Study. The study area is approximately 16 miles long. It begins at Route 28 in West Bridgewater and runs through East Bridgewater, Halifax, Plymouth, and Kingston. The purpose of the study is “To identify, quantify, study in depth, the Route 106 Corridor”. The study focuses on traffic volumes and congestion, vehicle and non-motorized (pedestrian and bicycle) safety, the built environment (pavement, sidewalks, markings, signage and traffic control devices) as well as the changing land use and potential impacts on traffic and transportation. The results of the study will be utilized to develop short term and long-term projects (TIP federal funded projects, state funded projects, and local funded projects or combination). The Study Focuses on: Traffic volumes, average daily traffic (24 hour), speeds, heavy vehicle volumes, and peak hour intersection turning movement volumes and intersection congestion; Peak Hour levels of service at key intersections; Number and types of crashes and crash rates; The condition of the built environment including pavement, sidewalks, pavement markings, traffic control devices and signage; Bicycle and pedestrian safety and accommodations; Truck operations and constraints; Land use and zoning and the potential impacts of land use and zoning on traffic and transportation; and The consideration of the impacts of transportation on public health. The draft study will be completed in 2019. The Study process includes Traffic data collection, Peak Hour Levels of Service (LOS) A through F at key intersections (SYNCHRO software traffic modeling). Public outreach including conversations and meeting with local town officials, traffic committees, DPWs, JTC and MPO presentations and a brief on line survey. Finalization of Study Report: Towns and MassDOT District 5 work together to develop projects funded through various sources – (TIP process and other sources of funding). Next Steps: Continue conversations with Route 106 Towns regarding next steps for improvements (further refinement), and support Route 106 Towns in efforts to fund these projects.

Program and Budget for 2019-2020. The 2019-2020 Work Program and Plan reflects approaches, needs and tasks identified by the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee and by the District Board, and the Old Colony Planning Council. It builds on and expands previous District activities where needs remain and expands opportunities where new needs have become apparent. Along with the basic tasks of supporting the CEDS Committee, it continues more recent activities aimed at positioning the District to respond to and lead economic recovery by offering technical assistance to local governments, organizations and individuals engaged in economic development, by filling gaps in available commercial credit and supporting Economic Resiliency for our region. Key elements include: Supporting workforce development efforts, Regionalization of water supply/wastewater treatment, Marketing industrial land and space, Marketing SEED Corp. revolving loan fund and other credit resources to help finance new, growing or financially challenged firms, supporting transportation improvements to ease the flow of goods and services in the region and supporting Economic Resiliency for our region. The District will continue to seek and maximize regional benefits from transportation investments (restored commuter rail service and selected highway projects), support the reuse of the closed South Weymouth Naval Air Station, to refine recommendations in the area of general economic development, and to work with the Brockton 21st Century Corporation, Greater Brockton Workforce Board, Metro South Chamber of Commerce, Town of Plymouth Office of Planning and Development, Plymouth Area Chamber of Commerce, Plymouth County Development Council, Southfield Redevelopment Authority, Brockton Area Transit, Career Works, Massasoit Community College, Bridgewater State University and local industrial development commissions, redevelopment authorities and planning boards. The Work Plan has three elements: Element 1.) Ongoing Planning; Element 2.) Program Development; and Element 3.) On Going Technical Assistance. We will continue to work with the Town of Plymouth on the economic effects of the closure of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power station in 2019. After discussion, Mr. David Klein moved to approve, seconded by Ms. Jeanmarie Joyce. So voted.

C. REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 229 ADOPTING AN ANNUAL WORK PROGRAM FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT AND AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

Mr. Hughes presented Resolution No. 229 adopting the EDA Annual Work Program. After discussion, Mr. Eldon Moreira moved to approve, seconded by Ms. Jeanmarie Joyce. So voted.

9. COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

A. Abington Delegate Mr. David Klein asked for an update on the Route 18 Weymouth-Abington Improvements Project. According to the MassDOT website, the following work is currently in progress: MassDOT’s contractor, P. Gioioso & Sons, implemented a new traffic pattern to perform work at the Route 18 Bridge over the Commuter Rail tracks. Lane widths have narrowed, with no shoulder in the work zone. Work along the west shoulder has begun. Preparatory work has started on the bridge carrying Route 18 over the railroad tracks, just north of the South Weymouth station. Underground utility work needed for road
widening and new traffic signals is ongoing in several locations between the bridge over the MBTA Commuter Rail and Abington town line. New traffic signals at Pond Street and Trotter Road will be installed in 2019. Relocation of utility poles and overhead wires is ongoing in several locations and may result in short-term service outages, as scheduled by utility companies with customers. This work will continue through the end of 2020. Construction of retaining walls to support road widening is ongoing in several locations.

10. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. OCPC ROM BUDGET JULY 2018 TO JUNE 2019. Mr. Ciaramella discussed this document included in the meeting packet. Information only, no Council action required.

B. REGIONAL HAZARDOUS MITIGATION PLAN: Mr. Ciaramella said the current Regional Hazardous Plan was approved on November 2015 for a period of five years and it will expire in November 2020. There is a need to update these plans in order for OCPC member communities to access FEMA Hazardous Mitigation Funds. We will be sending a letter to all of our communities to remind them that their plans need to be updated.

11. VISITOR COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:

A. Mr. John Kelly, an Avon resident is concerned about traffic from the Amazon warehouse in Stoughton that passes through Avon. Staff gave him information on traffic studies in Avon.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Gilmetti
Secretary

List of Documents February 27, 2019 OCPC Council Meeting

- OCPC Council Meeting Agenda for the February 27, 2019
- OCPC Council January 30, 2019 Meeting Minutes
- OCPC Financial Reports for January, 2019
- OCPC Upcoming Events February, March, and April 2019.
- OCPC Resolution No. 229
- OCPC EDD Work Program and Budget 2019-2020
- Route 106 Corridor Study Power Point Presentation
- CPTC Annual Conference Brochure
- OCPC ROM Financial Report - July 2018 to June, 2019