

OLD COLONY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

C/o Old Colony Planning Council, 70 School Street, Brockton, MA / Phone: 508-583-1833 / www.ocpcrpa.org

OLD COLONY MPO VOTING MEMBERS

CITY OF BROCKTON

TOWN OF PLYMOUTH

TOWN OF WEST BRIDGEWATER

TOWN OF WHITMAN

BROCKTON AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY (BAT)

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION (MASSDOT)

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION (MASSDOT) HIGHWAY DIVISION

OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL (OCPC)

OLD COLONY MPO EX-OFFICIO NON-VOTING MEMBERS

OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
(JTC)

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION (FHWA)
MASSACHUSETTS DIVISION

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA)
REGION 1

NOTICE OF VIRTUAL MEETING

Tuesday, February 16, 2021, 10:00 A.M.

Join Zoom Virtual Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/join>

Meeting ID: 828 6889 7278 | Password: 370367

Dial by your phone: +1 646 518 9805

Meeting ID: 828 6889 7278 | Password: 370367

AGENDA

1. Call to Order, Accessibility Statement, Title VI Notice of Protection, and Introductions
2. Public Comments
3. Minutes of January 19, 2021 Old Colony MPO Meeting
4. Brockton Area Transit (BAT) Report
5. FFY 2021-2025 Old Colony Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Adjustments and/ or Amendments
 - Amendment 2 - Review and Potential Release to Public Review and Comment Period
6. Development of FFY 2022-2026 Old Colony Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
 - Review of Projects including Evaluation Criteria and Results of TIP Readiness Days
7. Shared Winter Streets and Spaces Grant Program
8. Administrative Matters, Other Business, and Date and Time of Next Meeting(s)
9. Adjournment

The Old Colony MPO fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. The Old Colony MPO operates without regard to race, color, or national origin (including limited English proficiency), age, sex, disability, ancestry, ethnicity, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, religion, creed, veteran's status, or background. Any person who believes that they or any specific class of persons to be subject to discrimination prohibited by Title VI may by themselves or by representative file a written complaint with the Old Colony MPO. Complaints are to be filed no later than 180 days from the date of the alleged discrimination. Please contact Mary Waldron at 508-583-1833 Extension 202 for more information.

This meeting is accessible to people with disabilities and those with limited English proficiency. Accessibility accommodations and language services will be provided free of charge, upon request, as available. For more information or to request reasonable accommodation and/or language services please, contact Mary Waldron at 508-583-1833 Extension 202.

- If this information is needed in another language, please contact Mary Waldron at 508-583-1833 Extension 202.
- Se esta informação é necessária em outro idioma, entre em contato com Mary Waldron em 508-583-1833 Ramal 202.

- Si se necesita esta información en otro idioma, por favor póngase en contacto con Mary Waldron al 508-583-1833 extensión 202.
- Si yo bezwen enfòmasyon sa a nan yon lòt lang, tanpri kontakte Mary Waldron nan 508-583-1833 Ekstansyon 202.

The public discussion of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) at Old Colony JTC, Old Colony MPO, and transportation meetings satisfies the Program of Projects (POP) public hearing requirements of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

February 16, 2021 Old Colony MPO Meeting
Agenda Item 1
Call to Order, Accessibility Statement and
Title VI Nondiscrimination Statement, and Introductions

Summary

Call to Order, Accessibility Statement and Title VI Nondiscrimination Statement, Roll Call, and Introductions

Accessibility Statement and Title VI Nondiscrimination Statement

To be read by the Chair at the start of each meeting:

- “This meeting is accessible to people with disabilities. Microphones or telephones will be used by all speakers. If you would like these accommodations, please contact Mary Waldron at 508-583-1833 Extension 202.”
- “The Notice of Nondiscrimination Rights and Protections to Beneficiaries with regard to the Federal Title VI/ Nondiscrimination Protections and the State Nondiscrimination Protections is included on this meeting’s agenda, is posted in the conference room, and is available on the Old Colony Planning Council Website at www.ocpcrpa.org. Please contact Mary Waldron at 508-583-1833 Extension 202 for more information. Thank you.”

February 16, 2021 Old Colony MPO Meeting
Agenda Item 2
Public Comments

Summary

Public comments.

February 16, 2021 Old Colony MPO Meeting
Agenda Item 3
Minutes of January 19, 2021 Old Colony MPO Meeting

Summary

The Old Colony MPO is respectfully asked to consider approval of the January 19, 2021 Old Colony MPO Meeting Minutes.

OLD COLONY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

Minutes of the Old Colony MPO Virtual Meeting held on January 19, 2021 at 10:00 A.M. Via Zoom

Signatories Present:

Lee Hartmann, Representing Chairman Kenneth Tavares, Chairman, Plymouth Board of Selectmen
Daniel Salvucci, Vice-Chairman, Whitman Board of Selectmen
Meredith Anderson, Member, West Bridgewater Board of Selectmen
Stephen Woelfel, Representing Stephanie Pollack, Secretary and CEO, MassDOT
Pamela Haznar, Representing Jonathan Gulliver, Administrator, MassDOT Highway Division
Michael Lambert, Administrator, Brockton Area Transit Authority (BAT)
Charles Kilmer, Representing Christine Joy, President, Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC)

Others Present:

Bruce Hughes, Abington
Jamison Shave, Hanson
Glenn Geiler, BAT
Andrew Reovan, FHWA
Mary Ellen DeFrias, MassDevelopment
Ben Muller, MassDOT
Barbara Lachance, MassDOT District 5
Lisa Sherman, CDM Smith
Kim Tran, CDM Smith
Rob Cahoon, VHB
Shawn Bailey, OCPC
Paul Chenard, OCPC
Ray Guarino, OCPC
Bill McNulty, OCPC
Kyle Mowatt, OCPC
Unidentified Caller #1

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chairperson Stephen Woelfel called the meeting to order at 10:02 A.M. and then read the meeting Accessibility Statement, and the Title VI Notice of Protection Statement. Charles Kilmer then conducted the roll call. Charles Kilmer then reported that 7 of the 8 Signatories are present.

2. Public Comments

Charles Kilmer asked for a moment of silence for Mary Waldron's Mother, Angela Przybylowicz, who recently passed away. The Old Colony MPO then observed a moment of silence.

3. Minutes of the December 15, 2020 Meeting

Chairperson Woelfel asked the MPO Members for comments or changes regarding the minutes of the December 15, 2020 meeting. There were not any changes.

OLD COLONY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

The Old Colony MPO then voted unanimously via roll call vote to endorse the minutes of the December 15, 2020 Old Colony MPO Meeting.

4. Brockton Area Transit (BAT) Report

Michael Lambert reported on the following BAT items:

- Staff continues to maintain their health and safety
- BAT received grant awards through the MassDOT Community Transit Grant Program (CTGP) BAT received continued funding for Avon/ Stoughton Service, continued funding for the Rockland Flex Ride Service, and funding for nine Dial-A-BAT Vans.
- BAT received a MassDOT Shared Streets Grant, which will make transit use more comfortable during the winter. The grant was for 10 new shelters and heaters for the BAT Centre platform.
- BAT has worked with transit providers within the Boston UZA to divide up the second round of Federal relief.

5. MassDOT District 5 Update on Projects Under Design or Construction

Barbara LaChance provided updates on several projects under design or construction. The updates are as follows:

Construction:

Abington & Brockton - North Quincy and Chestnut Intersection Improvements

- Paved base course and intermediate course project wide; Street lighting is up, and roundabout is functional; Utility locations are complete; and construction is shut down for winter

Brockton - Route 123 Phase 3

- Contractor received notice to proceed in October 2020; Currently laying out baselines and utility relocations underway

East Bridgewater - Route 18 Roadway Reconstruction and Related Work

- Contractor is working on headwall on Route 18

Easton - Corridor Improvements on Depot Street (Route 123), from Newell Circle to Washington Street (Route 138)

- Construction Bids opened on January 12, 2021, and the low bidder is RJV Construction Corporation

Hanover - Route 3 Hanover

- Contractor has submitted lighting plan; Milling operations have been done in the northern section; and construction is shut down for winter

Pembroke - Route 53 Roadway Resurfacing Project

- Tree trimming was completed in December and construction is shut down for the winter

OLD COLONY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

Whitman - Route 18 at 14 and Route 18 at Route 27 Intersection Improvements

- Locations 1 and 2 have been paved to intermediate course and temporary markings were installed prior to winter; Construction is shut down for winter

Projects Under Design:

FFY 2022

Pembroke - Rehabilitation of Route 36 from Route 14 to Route 27

- There was a second utility meeting last week; MassDOT is waiting for the revised PS&E
- Project is scheduled to be advertised in December 2021

FFY 2023

Brockton - Intersection Improvements at Centre Street & Plymouth Street

- 25% Design is due in June 2021

Stoughton - Intersection Improvements at Central Street, Canton Street and Tosca Drive

- 25% Design Review has been completed; Next steps include a comment resolution meeting, design public hearing, and utility site walk

FFY 2023 and 2024

Stoughton - Corridor Improvements on Route 138

- 25% Design under review

FFY 2025

Abington - Intersection Improvements at Hancock Street & Chestnut Street

- Pre 25% Design has been reviewed and 25% Design is due in March 2021

Brockton - Intersection Improvements at Lyman, Grove, Summer (Including Grove Street Bridge)

- Revised 25% Design is due in September 2021

Duxbury - Signal Improvements at Route 3 and Route 3A

- MassDOT is awaiting on Town of Duxbury for information on design

6. FFY 2021-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments and/ or Adjustments

- **Amendment 2 - Review and Potential Release to Public Review and Comment Period**

Chairperson Woelfel reported that there are not items ready for this agenda item at this time, and that that this agenda item will be included on next month's meeting.

7. Performance Based Planning and MassDOT Proposed Calendar Year 2021 Highway Safety

OLD COLONY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

Performance Measure Targets (PM1)

- **Presentation, Discussion, and Possible Adoption of the Proposed Set of Federally Required Performance Measure Targets Pertaining to Highway Safety**

Ben Muller provided a presentation on the MassDOT Calendar Year 2021 Highway Safety Performance Measure Targets (PM1).

Total Fatalities: The CY 21 target of 339 was set to reflect an anticipated decrease in fatalities. The target of 339 was set to reflect an anticipated decrease in fatalities due to joint initiatives across MassDOT related to sustainable transportation; commitment to several FHWA Every Day Counts (EDC) initiatives (e.g., reducing rural roadway departures); and strategies and legislative proposals that were part of the 2018 Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP), such as the primary seat belt and hands-free driving laws.

Fatality Rate: The CY 21 target of 0.55 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled reflects an overall reduction from previous years. MassDOT's long-term goal is to move towards zero deaths.

Total Serious Injuries: The CY 21 target is 2,580. It is anticipated that there will be an overall decrease in the number of serious injuries due to a continual downward trend line as well as the implementation of countermeasures that are being developed as part of the 2018 Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). The CY 2021 target of 2,580 was set to reflect this trend. For this performance measure, it is important to note that on January 1, 2019, Massachusetts moved from the term "incapacitating injuries" to "serious injuries," per federal requirements.

Serious Injuries Rate: Similar to the fatality rate, it is anticipated that the downward trend line will result in a drop in the rate of serious injuries from 4.35 per 100 million VMT between 2016–2020 to 4.23 between 2017-2021.

Total Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries: The most recent data for non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries indicates that the previously increasing trend decreased in 2017 and has continued to decrease since then. The CY 2021 target has been set to reflect continued projected reductions in non-motorized fatalities and injuries due to a number of multi-disciplinary and multi-agency implementation strategies contained within the Statewide Bike Plan, Statewide Pedestrian Plan, and Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

Dan Salvucci asked that if MassDOT recognizes an area with a high percentage of crashes, do they contact OCPC to let them know. Ben Muller stated that the MassDOT Safety Group works every year to update the top crash intersections across the State, and then works with the MassDOT Districts and MPOs to set up Road Safety Audits. Discussion followed.

Chairperson Woelfel asked if there is a motion to endorse and accept the MassDOT Proposed Calendar Year 2021 Highway Safety Performance Measure Targets (PM1). A motion was made and was seconded.

The Old Colony MPO unanimously voted via roll call to endorse and accept the MassDOT Proposed

OLD COLONY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

Calendar Year 2021 Highway Safety Performance Measure Targets (PM1).

8. FFY 2021 UPWP Update - Road Safety Audits (RSAs) at Multiple Locations

Bill McNulty provided an update on the RSAs at Multiple Locations. Through Task 3300 of the FFY 2021 Old Colony UPWP, OCPC will be conducting Road Safety Audits at Multiple Locations throughout the region. Road safety audits have been proposed for 27 locations, grouped into 15 road safety audit meetings. These locations have been selected based on consultation with the municipalities, MassDOT, and the Old Colony MPO's Safety management system which ranks intersections based on the Equivalent to Property Damage Only (EPDO) value. EPDO is a weighted value which accounts for crash severity in addition to overall crash count for 2017 through 2019.

The Road Safety Audits will be conducted in conjunction with the municipalities and MassDOT throughout the program year, beginning in February 2021 and continuing through August 2021. The Audits will be conducted virtually, with video and photography from study sites made available to RSA participants. OCPC will have staff in the field at each audit to answer any questions and provide a live feed. Data and analysis will be provided to participants in advance of each Audit.

9. Administrative Matters, Other Business, and Date and Time of Next Meetings(s)

The next meetings of the Old Colony MPO are scheduled for 10:00 A.M. on February 16, March 16, April 20, May 18, and June 15.

Charles Kilmer then provided a summary of the following upcoming events:

- Expanding Mobility with the Community Transit Grant Program Webinar - January 26
- Dementia Friendly Transportation Drive Training - March 3 and March 9
- Massachusetts Service Alliance Covid-19 Resiliency Grants - Proposals must be submitted by 5:00 P.M. on February 5
- Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant Program

Chairperson Woelfel then adjourned the meeting at 10:32 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Mowatt

Kyle Mowatt, Senior Transportation Planner

List of Documents for the January 19, 2021 Old Colony MPO Meeting

1. Minutes of December 15, 2020 Old Colony MPO Meeting
2. Staff Reports for January 19, 2021 Old Colony MPO Meeting Agenda Items
3. Presentation on MassDOT Calendar Year 2021 Highway Safety Performance Measure Targets (PM1)

February 16, 2021 Old Colony MPO Meeting
Agenda Item 4
Brockton Area Transit Authority (BAT) Report

Summary

Brockton Area Transit to provide report.

February 16, 2021 Old Colony MPO Meeting
Agenda Item 5

FFY 2021-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
Amendments and/ or Adjustments

- Amendment 2 - Review and Potential Release to
Public Review and Comment Period

Summary

The Old Colony Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a program of capital improvements and operating assistance for the transportation system in the Old Colony Region.

February 16, 2021 Old Colony MPO Meeting
Agenda Item 6
Development of FFY 2022-2026 Old Colony Transportation
Improvement Program (TIP)

- Review of Projects including Evaluation Criteria and
Results of TIP Readiness Days

Summary

The development of the FFY 2022-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is underway. The TIP serves as a prioritized listing of highway, bridge, and transit projects for implementation during the next five (5) federal fiscal years that reflect the needs of the regional transportation system. In addition, the TIP is fiscally constrained based on expected federal funding, and it contains projects that are consistent with the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

TIP Readiness Days

Held annually, TIP Readiness Days is a collaborative process of gathering information and discussing currently programmed projects, and candidate projects being considered for programming.

During information gathering phase, MPOs provide preliminary review of the FFY 2021–2025 Regional Priority Projects list and advise if the project is intended to be programmed in that FFY. The MPOs also offer additional projects for review and potential programming consideration. Concurrently, MassDOT Districts, Right-of-Way Bureau, Environmental Offices, Program Managers, and Section Directors review the projects and offer comments on project status and readiness.

Following the information gathering phase, MassDOT and the MPO staffs meet to interactively review the status and readiness information for the projects. The result is a recommend year of programming for the projects reviewed.

Transportation Evaluation Criteria

During TIP development, current and proposed projects are evaluated using Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC). Projects are evaluated using the Transportation Evaluation Criteria of **Condition, Mobility, Safety and Security, Community Effects and Support, Land Use and Economic Development, and Environmental Effects**. The MPO staff uses the transportation evaluation criteria results, as well as readiness information, available funding, to develop scenarios for Preferred Set of Projects for MPO review, discussion, and consideration.

Universe of Projects

PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION	PROJECT ID	PROGRAM YEAR	TEC SCORE
AVON - INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT HARRISON BOULEVARD AND POND STREET	608086	2021 - Advertised	45.56
EASTON - ROUTE 123 (DEPOT STREET) RECONSTRUCTION FROM NEWELL CIRCLE TO ROUTE 138	607217	2021 - Advertised	38.89
STOUGHTON - IMPROVEMENTS AT RICHARD WILKINS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (SRTS)	608829	2021 - On schedule to be advertised	44.17
PEMBROKE - REHABILITATION OF ROUTE 36 (CENTER STREET) FROM ROUTE 27 TO ROUTE 14	600380	2022	34.11
AVON - STOUGHTON- PAVEMENT PRESERVATION AND RELATED WORK ON ROUTE 24	608496	2022 (2021)	NOT APPLICABLE
BROCKTON - INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AND RELATED WORK AT CENTRE STREET (ROUTE 123), CARY STREET AND LYMAN STREET	609410	2022 (2023) To be combined with 609520	48.89
BROCKTON - ABINGTON - PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE IMPROVEMENTS ON ROUTE 123	609520	NOT PROGRAMMED - To be combined with 609410	44.72

STOUGHTON - INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AND RELATED WORK AT CENTRAL STREET, CANTON STREET AND TOSCA DRIVE	608279	2023	43.22
STOUGHTON - CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS ON ROUTE 138	607403	2023 & 2024 ADVANCE CONSTRUCTION	51.78
BROCKTON - ROUTE 123 (CENTRE STREET) AT PLYMOUTH STREET SIGNALIZATION AND GEOMETRIC IMPROVEMENTS	609052	2023 (2024)	44.06
PLYMPTON - BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, WINNETUXET ROAD OVER WINNETUXET RIVER	609435	2024	NOT APPLICABLE
ABINGTON - INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT HANCOCK STREET AND CHESTNUT STREET	609440	2025	41.06
BROCKTON - INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT LYMAN STREET/GROVE STREET/SUMMER STREET & REPLACEMENT OF GROVE STREET BRIDGE, B-25-005, OVER SALISBURY PLAIN RIVER	607818	2025	50.39
DUXBURY - SIGNAL INSTALLATION @ ROUTE 3 (NB & SB) RAMPS & ROUTE 3A	606002	2025 (Need Design Status from Town)	38.22
EASTON - CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS ON ROUTE 138 INCLUDING INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT ROUTE 138 AND ELM ST	608195	Potential 2025 or 2026	42.89

HANSON - CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS ON ROUTE 14 (MAQUAN STREET), FROM THE PEMBROKE T.L. TO INDIAN HEAD STREET AND RELATED WORK	608506	Potential 2025 or 2026	38.22
AVON - INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT ROUTE 28, SPRING STREET AND HARRISON BOULEVARD	611979	NOT PROGRAMMED	TBD
BROCKTON - INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS @ CRESCENT STREET (ROUTE 27)/ QUINCY STREET/ MASSASOIT BOULEVARD	606143	NOT PROGRAMMED	45.83
EAST BRIDGEWATER - INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT BEDFORD STREET (ROUTE 18), WEST STREET (ROUTE 106) AND EAST STREET	611968	NOT PROGRAMMED	TBD
EAST BRIDGEWATER - INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT HIGHLAND STREET AND NORTH BEDFORD STREET (ROUTE 18)	611976	NOT PROGRAMMED	TBD
EASTON - RESURFACING AND RELATED WORK ON ROUTE 138	608585	NOT PROGRAMMED	38.72
HANOVER - RESURFACING & RELATED WORK ROUTE 53	607715	NOT PROGRAMMED	38.22

PEMBROKE - INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT WASHINGTON STREET AND SCHOOSSETT STREET	611978	NOT PROGRAMMED	TBD
STOUGHTON - RECONSTRUCTION OF TURNPIKE STREET	607214	NOT PROGRAMMED	38.89
STOUGHTON - INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT CANTON STREET (ROUTE 27), SCHOOL STREET AND SUMMER STREET	611981	NOT PROGRAMMED	TBD

February 16, 2021 Old Colony MPO Meeting
Agenda Item 8
Shared Winter Streets and Spaces Grant Program

Summary

The Shared Streets and Spaces Program was established in June 2020 and quickly became a success with cities and towns across the Commonwealth. The Shared Streets and Spaces Program provides grants from \$5,000 to \$300,000 for quick-build improvements to sidewalks, curbs, streets, on-street parking spaces, and off-street parking lots in order to support public health, safe mobility, and renewed commerce as a result of the Corona Virus Pandemic.

To date, \$10.2 million has been allocated to 103 municipalities to implement 123 projects, from pop-up bikes lanes to safe 'parklets' for outdoor dining to improved crosswalks to dedicated bus lanes, as well as a range of traffic calming measures. \$10 million has been allocated for this phase of the program, which has focused on the particular challenges of winter.

Recently, the **Town of West Bridgewater** received **\$254,400** to construct a new sidewalk linking the center of West Bridgewater to the historic War Memorial Park, including a midblock crossing with flashing safety beacons and the conversion of a portion of Arch

Street (currently closed) into a small pedestrian mall linking the Town Park to the War Memorial Park Dam just upstream of Arch Street.

Applications are being accepted on a rolling basis, and decisions will be made in four rounds. Applications need to be submitted by February 26, 2021 for consideration and award by March 26, 2021. Project completion and spending deadline for all four rounds is May 31, 2021.

February 16, 2021 Old Colony MPO Meeting
Agenda Item 9
Administrative Matters, Other Business, and Date and Time of
Next Meeting(s)

Summary

Date and Time of Next Old Colony MPO Meeting(s)

The Old Colony MPO members are respectfully requested to schedule the date and time of their next meeting(s).

- **March 16, 2021 at 10 AM**
- **April 20, 2021 at 10 AM**
- **May 18, 2021 at 10 AM**
- **June 15, 2021 at 10 AM**

Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) issues preliminary guidance for MBTA communities under Partnerships for Growth Act

The recently enacted \$626 million economic development bond bill includes a housing policy provision requiring MBTA communities to have at least one zoning district of reasonable size in which multi-family housing is permitted as of right. These districts must also meet the following criteria:

- Minimum gross density of 15 units per acre
- Not more than one-half mile from a commuter rail station, subway station, ferry terminal or bus station, if applicable
- No age restrictions
- Suitable for families with children

Specifically, Section 18 of chapter 358 of the Acts of 2020 adds a new section 3A to the Zoning Act (Chapter 40A of the General Laws) applicable to MBTA communities. The purpose of section 3A is to encourage MBTA communities to adopt zoning districts where multifamily zoning is permitted as of right, and that meet other requirements set forth in the statute.

DHCD, in consultation with the MBTA and the MassDOT, is required to promulgate guidelines to determine if an MBTA community is in compliance with section 3A. The purpose of the Preliminary guidance issued on January 29, 2021 is to (1) inform MBTA

communities about the process the Department will undertake to establish compliance criteria for section 3A, and (2) notify MBTA communities that they will remain eligible for grant programs administered by the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development or its agencies until more detailed compliance criteria and guidelines have been issued.

MBTA communities that do not create a zoning district with as-of-right multifamily development would be ineligible for funds from the MassWorks Program, the Housing Choice Initiative, or the state's Local Capital Projects Fund.

The statute requires DHCD to issue guidelines that define compliance with this new section of the Zoning Act. According to preliminary guidance issued by the DHCD on January 29, 2021, compliance criteria will be developed promptly and in consultation with affected MBTA communities and other stakeholders.

In addition, for purposes of grant programs administered by DHCD and the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development, MBTA communities will be deemed to be in compliance with this new section until more detailed compliance criteria have been established.

The guidance states that all communities are eligible to apply for MassWorks or the Housing Choice Capital Grants Program in the upcoming 2021 grant cycle.

Dementia - Friendly Transportation Driver Training

Massachusetts Councils on Aging (MCOA), MassMobility, and the Alzheimer's Association are pleased to announce a special training session for drivers. The Dementia-Friendly Transportation Training program will offer drivers of all types tools to recognize and work with people living with dementia. This session will be of interest to volunteer drivers who provide transportation to older adults, Councils on Aging that run van services using paid drivers or volunteers, and transit drivers who drive buses and paratransit. Meghan Lemay, M.S., Regional Manager, Western MA, Alzheimer's Association will provide the training.

The sessions will be held on **Wednesday, March 3rd from 2-3:30 pm** and **Tuesday, March 9th from 10-11:30 am**. [Register](#) for one or the other - they will be the same. For questions or reasonable accommodations, please contact Patty Sullivan at patty@mcoaonline.com. Requests for accommodations should be submitted as soon as possible, at least 3 days before the scheduled training.

Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant Program

The Division of Ecological Restoration (DER), Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game, is seeking proposals from Massachusetts municipalities interested in replacing an undersized, perched, and/or degraded culvert located in an area of high ecological value. The purpose of this funding is to encourage municipalities to replace culverts with better designed crossings that meet improved structural and environmental design standards and climate resiliency criteria. **Total funding available for all projects selected in FY22 is anticipated to be \$750,000-\$1,500,000.**

Only projects that intend to meet the goals of the Massachusetts Stream Crossing Standards will be considered for funding. Use of these Standards to design culverts improves river function and access for fish and wildlife, and reduces hazards to public safety, such as flooding, culvert failure, and road washout.

Massachusetts municipalities are eligible to apply for funding to support advancing one culvert replacement project toward completion. Interested communities should view the full announcement, including funding, eligibility, and evaluation criteria: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/culvert-replacement-municipal-assistance-grant-program>.

The **PRE-Request for Responses (RFR) period is January 12, 2020 to February 18, 2021, 3:00 PM** and provides a preview of the RFR. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact Bernadette DeBlander to set-up times to discuss possible projects and answer questions related to the upcoming grant opportunity.