

Eileen J. Marum, SRPEDD Board of Commissioners

Summary of SRPEDD Board of Commissioners Meeting

February 28, 2018

RE: Funding Availability Notifications/Grant-Writing/SCR

Ms Conaty, Deputy Director/Comprehensive Planning Manager, reminded Commissioners that one of the District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) main objectives is to support municipalities who are seeking to adopt state Best Practices under the Community Compact Cabinet program, including those who want to pursue projects of a regional nature.

SRPEDD will pursue strategies intended to assist Compact Communities with implementation of their Best Practice selection(s). While priority will be given to existing participants' Best Practices (as stated on their Compact applications), SRPEDD will also consider requests from (1) Compact Communities seeking to implement Best Practices not specifically included on their Compact applications and (2) non-Compact Communities seeking to implement the state's Best Practices. Additionally, SRPEDD will work with non-Compact Communities to identify Best Practices from Year 3, to enter a Compact with the Commonwealth, and to immediately begin work on their chosen projects.

DEADLINES: SRPEDD will consider all requests received by Friday, February 23, 2018. A second round of projects may be solicited. All DLTA projects must be completed by December 31, 2018.

Executive Director Jeffrey Walker reported that on January 31, 2018, MassDOT filed a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (DSEIR) for South Coast Rail (SCR). The document describes MassDOT's approach to providing SCR service by extending an existing rail line. MassDOT proposes to advance Phase 1 to deliver service to the South Coast late in 2022, years before revenue service is possible under the Full Build Project. At the same time, MassDOT will proceed with designing, permitting and funding the Stoughton Straight Electric Alternative, which was already reviewed under the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA).

The Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs issued a Certificate on the Notice of Project Change (NPC) on May 26, 2017, which outlined the scope of work for the DSEIR. The DSEIR analyzes the route alternatives, service options, and station locations that MassDOT is proposing for Phase 1.

During Phase 1, the MBTA will operate three morning peak trains and three evening peak trains to both New Bedford and Fall River, with Taunton and Middleborough seeing up to six morning and six evening peak trains (because all the service will pass through these communities). The document outlines the route alternatives, service options, and station locations that MassDOT is proposing for Phase 1, among other topics. The DSEIR filing includes a public comment period, which ends on March 23, 2018 and a public meeting. The DSEIR will result in a Certificate issued by the Secretary outlining next steps.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen J. Marum

Chairman, Marion Planning Board